

Russia-Ukraine war

Russians control 80% of eastern Ukraine city Sievierodonetsk. **News, Page 4**

Middle East trip

President Biden to visit Saudi Arabia, Israel and West Bank next month. **News, Page 8**

Wall Street woes

Stocks fall again in anticipation of big rate hike by the Fed. **News, Page 10**

Sunny, warm



Some fair-weather clouds; high of 82. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

Guilty plea in relief money theft scheme

Former West Haven employee, partner of ousted state Rep. DiMassa admits role in defrauding city

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

John Bernardo, a West Haven city employee and business partner of ousted state Rep. Michael DiMassa, pleaded guilty Tuesday to being part of a conspiracy that stole more than \$630,000 in government relief money the city was given to cover expenses arising

from the coronavirus pandemic.

Bernardo is accused of personally collecting about \$50,000. But before entering the guilty plea in federal court, he placed most of the blame on DiMassa, complaining that he didn't realize the extent of the theft until reading about it in the newspaper after his arrest.

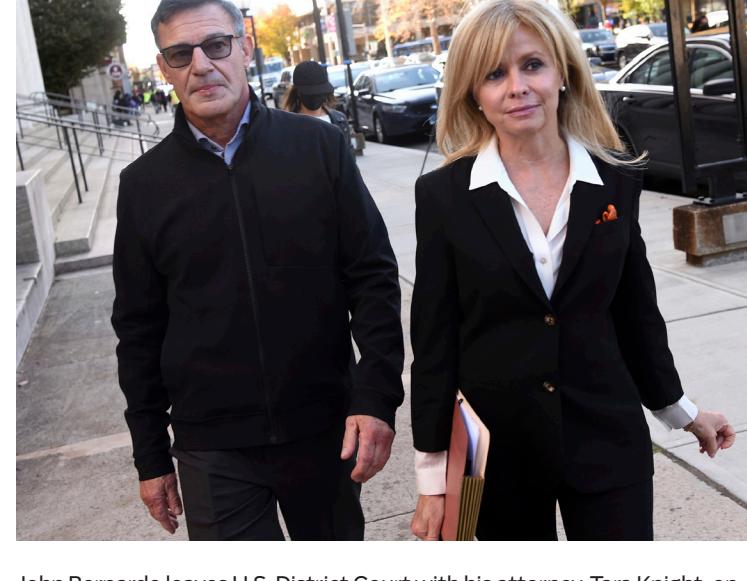
"I had no idea what Mr. DiMassa was doing, how he was getting the

money," Bernardo told U.S. District Judge Omar Williams. "When I heard it was between \$500,000 and \$800,000, I said, 'What is going on here? Where is the money?'"

"Listen, it is what it is," Bernardo said. "I want to be held responsible for my part in the crime ... But I didn't know what ... was going on."

Bernardo is the first to plead guilty to conspiracy and fraud charges arising from a COVID relief fund scandal in financially

Turn to Theft, Page 3



John Bernardo leaves U.S. District Court with his attorney, Tara Knight, on Nov. 4 in New Haven. Bernardo, a business partner of former Connecticut Rep. Michael DiMassa, pleaded guilty to a role in misusing more than \$600,000 in federal COVID-19 relief funds. **ARNOLD GOLD/AP**



Carolyn Clement, of Simsbury, grew up in Nebraska. She wanted to attend the rally for Choice and Gun Safety at Cherry Brook Elementary School in Canton because Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts was to attend a fundraiser for Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski.

Republicans, Democrats clash over guns, abortion

Despite Nebraska governor's absence, protesters show up at Stefanowski fundraiser

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

CANTON — The high-profile guest of honor was not there, but the absence of Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts did not stop a clash Tuesday between Republicans and Democrats over guns and abortion.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski went ahead with a big-money fundraiser in Canton, even though Ricketts, the chairman of the national Republican Governors Association, canceled due to what the campaign described as a scheduling conflict.

At the same time, a group of Democrats gathered in protest outside a public school that was one mile away — strategically placed on the same street so that

those driving north to the fundraiser would need to pass the protesters.

The fundraiser had caused controversy among Democrats because Ricketts favors banning abortion, even in cases of rape and incest, if the landmark Roe v. Wade decision is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in the coming weeks.

"Nebraska is a pro-life state. I believe life begins at conception, and those are babies, too," Ricketts told CNN last month. "If Roe v. Wade, which is a horrible constitutional decision, gets overturned by the Supreme Court, which we're hopeful of, here in Nebraska, we're going to take further steps

Turn to Fundraiser, Page 3



Joan Vogel, 12, left, her 15-year-old sister Helen Kenney and youngest sibling Daisy Vogel, 7, make pro-choice and anti-gun signs outside Cherry Brook Elementary School. **DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT PHOTOS**

Former DOJ officials pressured by Trump were set to appear

By Eric Tucker

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol postponed a hearing that was to feature dramatic testimony from former Justice Department officials who were pressured by then-President Donald Trump

to pursue his false election fraud theories.

The hearing had been scheduled for Wednesday, but the committee Tuesday morning said that it had been delayed. A spokesman for the panel attributed the postponement to "a number of scheduling factors, including production timeline and availability of members and witnesses."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, a Republican member of the committee, said on Twitter that the hearing had been moved to next week as a way to "space out" the testimony surrounding

the insurrection, when crowds of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

The committee has held two hearings, including a prime-time one last week that featured never-before-seen video of extremists leading the deadly siege. Another hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

The witnesses at Wednesday's hearing were to include Jeffrey Rosen, who was the acting attorney general at the time of the Capitol insurrection, as well as two other former top officials at

the Justice Department, Richard Donoghue and Steven Engel. Lawyers for all three men did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The witnesses, all of whom have since left the agency, are expected to testify about how Trump sought to bend the department to his political will during the final days of his administration by urging officials to declare the election as corrupt and to aid in his efforts to challenge the results of the race won by Biden, a Democrat.

Turn to Hearing, Page 2

Lamont touts expansion of state's 'red flag' gun law

As federal lawmakers weigh red flag rules that allow a person's guns to be temporarily seized, Gov. Ned Lamont touted Connecticut's law, which was adopted in 1999 and expanded June 1. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Hearing

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Though the lawyers' accounts have been documented by the news media, the hearing will give the American public its most detailed glimpse of a near-revolt inside the Justice Department as Trump contemplated replacing the agency's top official with a lower-level lawyer seen as more willing to advance the president's false claims that the election was stolen. Several other senior officials warned Trump in a White House meeting that they'd resign if the leadership change occurred.

Rosen took over the department following the December 2020 departure of William Barr, who angered Trump by saying the department had not found fraud that could have affected the results of the election. Trump quickly soured on Rosen, too, after the then-acting attorney general rejected entreaties from the president and the White House to challenge

the election results.

Around that time, the president was introduced by Rep. Scott Perry, a Pennsylvania Republican and ardent Trump backer, to Jeffrey Clark, a little-known assistant attorney general who postured himself as willing to advance Trump's baseless voting fraud claims.

At one point, according to testimony provided to lawmakers, Clark presented colleagues with a draft letter pushing Georgia officials to convene a special legislative session on the election results. Clark wanted the letter sent, but superiors at the Justice Department refused.

A lawyer for Clark did not immediately return a phone message Wednesday.

Clark's support led Trump to openly contemplate naming him as acting attorney general in place of Rosen.

The situation came to a head during a tense, hours-long Jan. 3, 2021, meeting at the White House in which Engel and Donoghue told Trump they would resign from the Justice Department.

ment if Trump proceeded with his plan to fire Rosen and replace him with Clark.

Trump ultimately relented, and Rosen remained on as acting attorney general through the end of the administration.

In related news Tuesday:

■ Police have determined there was nothing suspicious about a tour of two U.S. Capitol office buildings that a House Republican gave to about 15 people the day before Jan. 6, 2021, when rioting supporters of then-President Donald Trump attacked the Capitol.

The House committee investigating the 2021 insurrection examined whether rioters had been involved in reconnaissance and surveillance before the attack, and Democrats suggested some Republican members may have helped them.

However, there has been no public evidence of that.

Rep. Barry Loudermilk, a Republican from Georgia, was simply showing his constituents around, U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger wrote in a letter sent Monday.

Capitol Police say the tour was thoroughly examined and there was nothing suspicious about it.

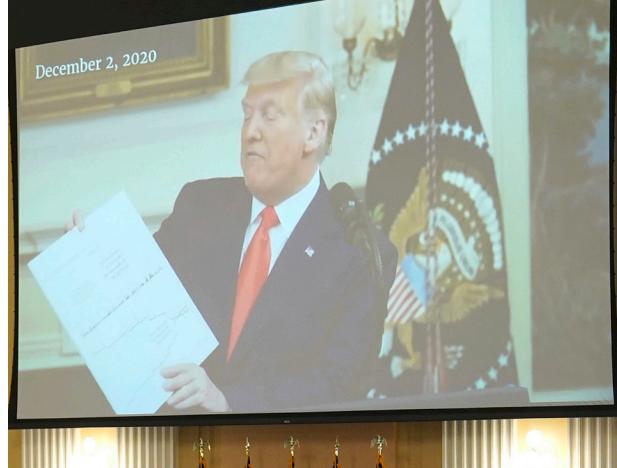
■ A former city councilman in West Virginia was sentenced Tuesday to 45 days in prison for breaching the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot.

Eric Barber, 43, was sentenced by a federal judge in Washington for his December guilty plea to a misdemeanor count of illegally entering the Capitol, news outlets reported.

Barber also was given a seven-day sentence, which the judge suspended, for stealing a portable battery charger from a media stand inside the Capitol.

Barber was ordered to pay \$500 restitution for damage done to the Capitol and for the cost of the charger.

Barber is among more than 80 defendants sent to prison for offenses related to the attack on the Capitol, according to an Associated Press analysis of sentencing data. More than 800 cases have been brought so far in the largest prosecution in DOJ history.



The House panel investigating the U.S. Capitol riot, shown during its Monday hearing, postponed its Wednesday hearing, citing scheduling factors. MANDEL NGAN/POOL PHOTO

Offices

from Page 1

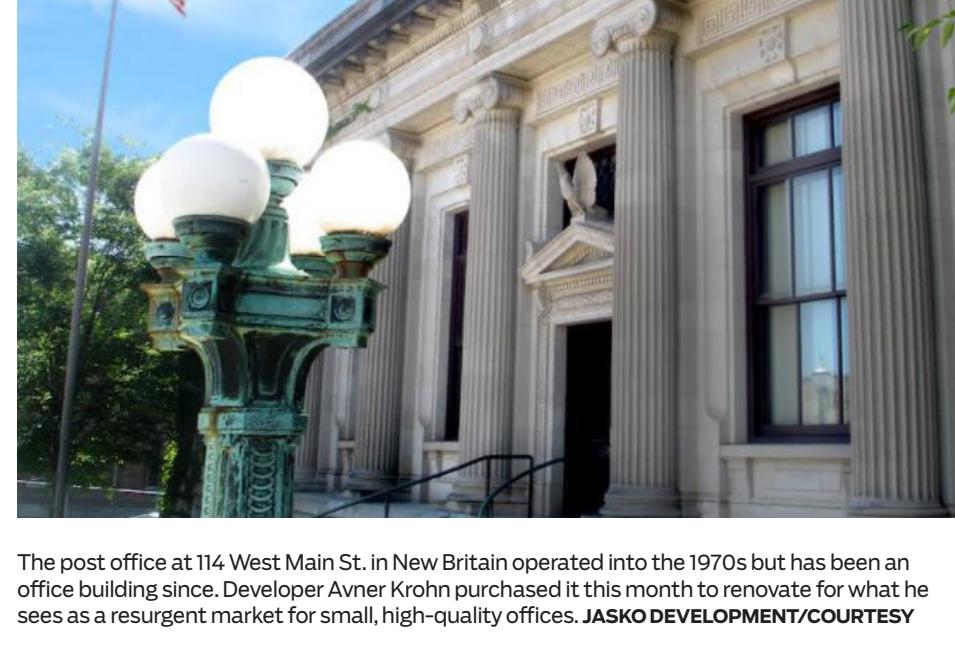
pandemic-driven work-at-home movement.

Cushman & Wakefield's analysis in April concluded that 17.5% of all U.S. office space is vacant, the highest rate since 2003.

And while the company found some rebound in the South and West, the Northeast was largely stalled with the same empty office inventory it had last year.

At the same time, rents in Fairfield County on average remain substantially higher than for similar office properties in Hartford.

The CommercialCafe website reports rents for Class A space in Hartford averaged \$22.77 per square foot in the first year of the pandemic; the statewide average was \$35.83. Greater Hartford's Class B and Class C properties lagged behind



The post office at 114 West Main St. in New Britain operated into the 1970s but has been an office building since. Developer Avner Krohn purchased it this month to renovate for what he sees as a resurgent market for small, high-quality offices. JASKO DEVELOPMENT/COURTESY

the state average too.

Jasko Development, which currently has more

than 700 market-rate apartments under construction or in planning around central

modest office downtown isn't enough for the expanding staff, so Krohn looked to lease larger space.

"We've been looking for

a year-and-a-half," he said. "New Britain has been good to me, but there's very little Class A space here."

The post office, built a century ago and used for office space since the 1970s, became an option this year. The Knaus family was open to selling it, and the deal was closed June 2.

Jasko may take a small section of the building for its offices but would still have more than 30,000 square feet to lease. Tenants reported that renovations are already underway.

"Within a couple of days there was work going on in the driveway," said attorney Greg Arcaro, a partner in Advanced Bankruptcy Legal Services.

While some law firms downsized office space

because of the pandemic, Arcaro and his law partner, Joel Grafstein, concluded that their clients need to see them in person.

"Our business is very personal," Arcaro said. "Our clients get reassurance from our experience — and that just doesn't translate on the phone."

Jasko is banking on that kind of market — small professionals offices — to fill the former bank by the middle of next year.

"In cities you're seeing older product is being taken off the block and converted to residential," Krohn said. Long before COVID, there was a move to working more from home. Insurance companies, American Express, claims processing — if you're answering a claim call, you can do it anywhere.

"Then when COVID happened, the technology got better and it's become a perk to work from home."

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY

Tuesday, June 14

PLAY3 DAY

3 5 0 WB:1

PLAY4 DAY

9 7 4 6 WB:3

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

4 0 0 WB:7

PLAY4 NIGHT

8 2 8 7 WB:5

CASH 5

1 3 5 8 33

LUCKY FOR LIFE

9 16 17 24 27 LB:4

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.2 million

Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$258 million

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Hartford Courant

FROM PAGE ONE

Surprises, loose ends in Senate gun initiatives

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The outline of a bipartisan Senate agreement to rein in gun violence has no game-changing steps banning the deadliest firearms. It does propose measured provisions making it harder for some young gun buyers, or people considered threatening, to have weapons.

And there are meaningful efforts to address mental health and school safety concerns.

It all reflects election-year pressure to act both parties feel after mass shootings in May killed 10 Black people in Buffalo, New York, and 21 more — including 19 children — in Uvalde, Texas.

Details of the plan remain in negotiation between Democrats and Republicans, with disagreements over how tightly the initiatives should be drawn. That means the proposal's potency — and perhaps whether some parts survive — remain undetermined as it's translated into legislation.

Here's what's in and out of the agreement:

Background checks: When people age 18 to 20 try buying firearms, the required federal background check would for the first time include their juvenile crime and mental health records.

To allow time for getting data from state and local authorities, the current three-day maximum would be extended up to seven more days, according to aides following the talks. Once the 10 days lapse, the buyer could get the weapon,



Protesters hold signs at the March for Our Lives rally in support of gun control on Saturday in Washington. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

even if the record search is incomplete.

Currently, dealers considered in the "business" of selling guns are required to get federal firearms licenses. Such sellers must conduct background checks. Bargainers want to cover more people who, while not running a formal business, occasionally sell weapons.

Other measured curbs: The framework calls for grants to help states enforce or enact "red flag" laws that let authorities get court orders temporarily taking guns from people deemed dangerous.

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia have such statutes, but some lack funds to enforce them robustly.

Penalties would be toughened for so-called straw purchasers, those buying guns for others who don't

qualify.

More current or former romantic partners convicted of domestic abuse, or targeted with restraining orders by their victims, would be barred from getting guns. The ban applies today if the couple was married, lived together or had children together.

Inclusion of the tougher restrictions against straw purchasers and estranged partners were surprises because they'd been blocked by Republicans before.

Broader problems: Democrats say there will be billions of dollars to expand mental health initiatives. This would pay for more community behavioral health centers, strengthened suicide prevention, and violence intervention efforts and increased access to mental telehealth visits.

There would be new sums

for school safety. These could include better security at building entrances, training for staff and violence prevention programs. The dollar amount is unclear.

Hurdles ahead: Democrats responsive to constituents who favor gun curbs want the new law to be as stringent as possible. Republicans want nothing that would turn their adamantly pro-gun voters against them.

This means tough bargaining on the fine print of the legislation.

How narrowly will a new definition of which sellers need federal firearms licenses be written? Are there limits on which juvenile records would be accessible during background checks for younger buyers?

What conditions would states have to meet to qualify for "red flag" funds? What legal protections would

people have if the authorities consider them too risky to have firearms?

How much money will the package cost? People familiar with the discussions say a ballpark \$15 billion figure is possible. And how will it be paid for?

A leader of the effort, Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told reporters this week that bargainers plan to pay for the costs with offsetting spending cuts or new revenues. The latter could be a no-go for Republicans.

Leaders hope the package can be written and approved before Congress begins its July 4 recess.

What's out? President Joe Biden has proposed reviving the 1994 assault weapons ban, which expired after a decade, or raising the minimum age for buying one from 18 to 21. He wants to ban high-capacity magazines.

He'd repeal the legal immunity from liability protecting gun makers. He wants safe-storage requirements for guns and a federal "red flag" law to cover states without one.

None of those made it into the bill; nor did universal background checks. Biden backs the agreement anyway in the name of a compromise that would produce an achievement.

Prospects ahead? Ten senators from each party joined in announcing the gun outline and saying they backed it. Those numbers are not a coincidence.

They signal potentially enough support for passage by the 50-50 Senate, where Democrats will need at least 10 GOP backers to reach the usual 60-vote threshold.

Besides Murphy, the other lead negotiators were Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

Approval in the Democratic-run House is expected, though complications could always emerge.

More restrictions? Another bargainer, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he hopes Republicans will see that "the gun lobby is weaker than they think." But there are signs that approving future restrictions will be challenging.

For one thing, this spurt of action on guns is Congress' most significant since the now-expired assault weapons ban was enacted three decades ago. That spotlights how hardened positions can be lasting.

Another clue is the makeup of the agreement's 20 announced supporters.

Blumenthal and Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., are the only two running for reelection this year.

Four others, all Republicans, are retiring in January: Sens. Roy Blunt of Missouri, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Rob Portman of Ohio and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

The rest don't face reelection until 2024 or 2026.

They are Republican Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mitt Romney of Utah.

The Democrats are Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Chris Coons of Delaware, Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine, allied with Democrats, also backed the proposal.

Fundraiser

from Page 1

to protect those pre-born babies."

When asked if he favored raising the age to 21 to buy an assault weapon, Ricketts said, "I haven't looked at the details of that bill."

The cancellation by Ricketts was announced on the same day that the Connecticut Democratic Party said that public officials would be attending the protest, including Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, state legislators Eleni Kavros-DeGraw of Avon and Jillian Gilcrest of West Hartford, and Chris Mattei, a former federal prosecutor who explored a run for governor in 2018 and ran for state attorney general.

"When you are saying that women should not have the right to have an abortion on demand, you are not pro-family," Kavros-DeGraw told more than 60 Democrats gathered outside the school. "The folks that donate tonight are not the people who share the values of the majority of the people who live in Connecticut. Those are the folks who are saying, no, my gun is more important than your child."

Bronin said, "Governor

Pete Ricketts is one of the most extreme right-wing Republicans in the country. ... He opposes common-sense gun laws. He was one of President Trump's biggest supporters. ... If Bob [Stefanowski] had his way, Donald Trump would still be president today."



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, Simsbury Selectman Eric Wellman and Attorney Chris Mattei attend the rally for Choice and Gun Safety at the Cherry Brook Elementary School in Canton. DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT

But Liz Kurantowicz, a senior adviser to Stefanowski, said that Stefanowski supports the state's laws on abortion and guns.

"The only extreme views on abortion in Connecticut are Governor Lamont's," Kurantowicz said. "Bob supports a woman's right to choose, as is already codified in Connecticut state law, and believes in parental notification for girls under 16. The governor seems to be embracing extremists

who believe there should be no restrictions on abortion whatsoever."

She added, "Connecticut has the strongest-in-the-nation gun laws, and Bob will do what's in his power to enforce them when he's governor."

Kurantowicz declined to reveal the number of supporters who attended the fundraiser or how much money was raised, saying that the total would be revealed publicly in the

quarterly campaign report.

Despite pledging to spend \$10 million of his own money on the race, Stefanowski has continued to raise money. The top ticket price for the Canton fundraiser was \$3,500 per person, along with \$2,500 for a platinum supporter, \$1,000 for a gold supporter and \$250 for a "Save CT Supporter," according to an invitation obtained by the Courant.

The campaign has also sent out invitations for

a major fundraiser next week with New Hampshire Republican Gov. Chris Sununu that has a maximum ticket price of \$3,500.

Stefanowski is locked in a high-stakes, big-money battle against Lamont, a fellow millionaire former business executive. Lamont has already spent more than \$40 million of his own money in three statewide races in 2006, 2010, and 2018. He is expected to spend millions more this year to keep his

current position.

Stefanowski is trying to break a 15-year losing streak by Republicans in major races in Connecticut. In 2006, then-Gov. M. Jodi Rell and then-U.S. Rep. Chris Shays of Bridgeport both won reelection. But Shays lost in the Democratic wave that swept in Barack Obama as president in 2008, and no Connecticut Republican has won a seat for Congress, governor or other statewide office since then.

Mattei, a former federal prosecutor who handled gun trafficking and other cases, said that his 6-year-old son had somehow found out about the Texas school shooting.

"I didn't know what to say to him, and he's the kind of kid who doesn't like people to see him cry," Mattei told the crowd. "And he started crying, and I thought it was because he was scared that something like that could happen in his school. But somehow he had heard that the shooter at Uvalde had been killed. When I asked him whether he was crying because he was afraid that this might happen at his school, he said no — because it didn't occur to him that there might be more than one person who could do something like this to other children. The reason he was crying is because he was so sad for the children — about his age — who he knew had died."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Theft

from Page 1

troubled West Haven late last year. DiMassa, a City Hall insider authorized by Mayor Nancy Rossi to distribute the COVID relief money, is accused of fabricating phony invoices and sending tens of thousands of dollars to friends and his wife for non-existent, pandemic-related work.

DiMassa is accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars himself and losing the money gambling at the Mohegan Sun casino. Also charged, in addition to Bernardo, is DiMassa's wife, Lauren Knox, and associate John Tarasco. Under his plea bargain agreement with federal prosecutors, Bernardo, 66, of West Haven, faces from



State Rep. Michael DiMassa leaves the United States Courthouse after he was arrested by the FBI in a probe of misuse of COVID relief funds. COURANT FILE PHOTO

27 to 33 months in prison and will have to participate with DiMassa in repaying the stolen money. He pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud.

He and DiMassa are

accused of creating a business partnership in January 2021 and using it to bilk the city out of \$636,783.70 for a variety of non-existent services described on city invoices as legal work,

lobbying, site work, consulting services and "Legislative Review of Executive Orders." Federal prosecutors said DiMassa arranged for West Haven to issue 13 checks to Compass Investment Group — even though it never received anything for its money.

According to prosecution filings in the case, a portion of the thefts from the COVID fund correspond with DiMassa's alleged purchase of casino gambling chips. In one case, DiMassa is accused of billing the city for about \$85,000 for consulting services on May 5, 2021. The city issued a check on May 6 to Compass. And over the next 10 days, DiMassa made a succession of six withdrawals in amounts ranging from \$8,200 to \$9,350. Over the same period, he is accused

of six cash "buy-ins" for \$33,100 in chips at the Mohegan Sun.

DiMassa, Knox and Tarasco have pleaded not guilty to similar charges.

Federal prosecutors said DiMassa directed about \$432,000 to businesses controlled by Tarasco for goods and services never provided to West Haven. Among other things, the city was defrauded on payments for thousands of pieces of protective equipment such as masks, heating and air conditioning maintenance, Board of Education COVID supplies and cleaning services at school buildings — including a building that had been abandoned for years.

The prosecutors said 16 checks worth a total of about \$147,000 were written to Knox. They accused her of depositing a portion of each in a personal account and, in the case of one check, depositing the entire amount.

"During this period of time, Knox never provided any services to the City of West Haven," federal prosecutors said in a court filing.

WORLD & NATION

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WAR IN UKRAINE

Ukraine losing its grip on key city

Russians cut escape routes, control 80% of Sievierodonetsk

By Yuras Karmanau

Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine — Russian troops control about 80% of the contested eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of it, but Ukrainian authorities are still trying to evacuate the wounded, a regional official said Tuesday.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, acknowledged that a mass evacuation of civilians from Sievierodonetsk now is "simply not possible" due to the relentless shelling and fighting.

Ukrainian forces have been pushed to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched-earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using," he said.

"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," he said by telephone, adding that Russian forces have not yet completely blocked off the strategic city.

About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk, from a prewar population of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the city's Azot chemical plant, which is being pounded by the Russians, Haidai said.

A Russian general, meanwhile, said a humanitarian corridor will be opened Wednesday to evacuate civilians from the Azot plant.

Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev, head of the National Defense Management Center, is accused by Ukraine of human rights violations while commanding troops during the siege of Mariupol, Ukraine's key port on the Sea of Azov that has been taken over by the Russians.



Smoke rises from Sievierodonetsk during fighting between Ukrainian and Russian forces on Tuesday. ARIS MESSINIS/GETTY-AFP

sev said evacuees would be taken to the town of Svatovo, 35 miles to the north in territory under the control of Russian and separatist forces.

Mizintsev, head of the National Defense Management Center, is accused by Ukraine of human rights violations while commanding troops during the siege of Mariupol, Ukraine's key port on the Sea of Azov that has been taken over by the Russians.

Russian forces in the past few weeks have pressed hard to capture Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas area, which borders Russia and is made up of the Luhansk and

Donetsk regions.

"The situation is difficult," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a news conference Tuesday with Danish media. "Our task is to fight back."

Zelenskyy has pleaded for more and faster deliveries of Western arms.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said Tuesday that the military had only received around 10% of the Western weapons it had requested "to create parity with the Russian army."

"No matter how much effort Ukraine makes, no matter how professional our army, without the help

of Western partners we will not be able to win this war," Malyar said in a televised news conference.

The battle of Donbas could dictate the course of the war, which began Feb. 24.

If Russia prevails, Ukraine will lose not only land but perhaps the bulk of its most capable military forces, opening the way for Moscow to grab more territory and dictate its terms to Kyiv.

A Russian failure, however, could lay the grounds for a Ukrainian counteroffensive — and possible political upheaval for the Kremlin.

In other developments:

■ U.S. President Joe Biden says he's working closely with European partners to get 20 million tons of Ukrainian grain, currently blocked from leaving Black Sea ports due to Russia's invasion, onto international markets.

He said the plan would involve building temporary silos on Ukraine's borders to deal with the problem of the different rail gauges that Ukrainian and European railway systems use.

"Ukraine has a system, like Russia has, a rail gauge that is different than the gauge of the rest of the tracks in Europe," Biden

said. "So we're going to build silos, temporary silos, in the borders of Ukraine, including in Poland. So we can transfer it from those cars into those silos into cars in Europe and get it out to the ocean and get it across the world. But it's taking time."

The lack of Ukrainian grain on world markets is threatening to exacerbate food shortages and inflation across the world.

■ The leaders of seven NATO nations from across Europe pledged their support Tuesday for Sweden and Finland's bids to join the alliance and for providing more heavy weapons to help Ukraine battle Russia.

The support was voiced after an informal gathering at Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's official residence in The Hague co-hosted by his Danish counterpart, Mette Frederiksen. The other leaders attending were Romania's president and the prime ministers of Belgium, Poland, Portugal and Latvia.

"My message on Swedish and Finnish membership is that I strongly welcome that," said NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who also attended.

But he said the alliance also has to take seriously concerns raised by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has vetoed membership for the two countries until they change their policies on supporting Kurdish militants deemed by Ankara to be terrorists.

■ Ukrainian authorities said they had received the remains of 64 defenders of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol in the latest body swap with Russia.

Yellowstone closed after flooding inundates region

Tourists and others stranded with roads, bridges washed out

By Amy Beth Hanson and Matthew Brown

Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Floodwaters higher than any in more than a century tore through Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas, sweeping away houses, washing out bridges and roads, stranding tourists and residents, and prompting frantic helicopter and raft rescues.

The flooding across parts of southern Montana and northern Wyoming from days of rain and a rapidly melting snowpack indefinitely closed one of the nation's most iconic parks just as a summer tourist season that draws millions of visitors was ramping up.

North of the park, hundreds of people remained isolated Tuesday after the Yellowstone River crested higher than ever recorded in a chocolate brown torrent that washed away anything in its path. While no one has been reported killed or injured, waters were only starting to recede Tuesday and the full extent of the destruction

wasn't yet known.

"It is just the scariest river ever," Kate Gomez, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said. "Anything that falls into that river is gone."

Gomez and her husband were among hundreds of tourists stuck in Gardiner, Montana, a town of about 800 residents at the north entrance to the park. The town was cut off for more than a day until Tuesday afternoon, when crews managed to get part of a washed away two-lane road reopened. Officials warned that driving conditions were still dangerous.

While the flooding can't directly be attributed to climate change, it came as the Midwest and East Coast sizzled from a heat wave and other parts of the West burn from an early wildfire season amid a persistent drought that has increased the frequency and intensity of fires that are having broader impacts. Smoke from a fire in the mountains of Flagstaff, Arizona, could be seen in Colorado.

Rick Thoman, a climate specialist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, said a warming environment makes extreme weather events more likely "than they would have been without the warming that human

activity has caused."

"Will Yellowstone have a repeat of this in five or even 50 years? Maybe not, but somewhere will have something equivalent or even more extreme," he said. "It was just this time last year we were talking about the heat dome over the Pacific Northwest. These extreme heat events are becoming more common. It's not the same place every year. It isn't going to be the same place every year."

The towns of Cooke City and Silvergate, just east of the park, were also isolated by floodwaters.

Heavy rain on top of melting mountain snow pushed the Yellowstone, Stillwater and Clarks Fork rivers to record levels Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

Officials in Yellowstone and several southern Montana counties were assessing damage from the storms, which also triggered mudslides and rockslides. Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte declared a statewide disaster.

In Livingston, low-lying neighborhoods were evacuated and the city's hospital was evacuated after its driveway flooded.

It was unclear how many visitors to the region



Floodwaters overwhelm property Monday near Bridger, Montana. Flooding caused by heavy rain on top of melting mountain snow has left some cities isolated. EMMA H. TOBIN/AP

remained stranded or have been forced to leave Yellowstone, or how many people who live outside the park were rescued and evacuated.

Some of the worst damage happened in the northern part of the park and Yellowstone's gateway communities in southern Montana. National Park Service photos of northern Yellowstone showed a mudslide, washed-out bridges and roads undercut by churning floodwaters of the Gardner and Lamar rivers.

Officials in Park County, which includes Gardiner

and Cooke City, said extensive flooding throughout the county had made drinking water unsafe in many areas.

The Montana National Guard said Monday it sent two helicopters to southern Montana to help with the evacuations.

In south-central Montana, flooding on the Stillwater River stranded 68 people at a campground. Stillwater County Emergency Services agencies and crews with the Stillwater Mine rescued people Monday from the Woodbine Campground by raft. Some

roads in the area are closed because of flooding and residents have been evacuated.

"We will be assessing the loss of homes and structures when the waters recede," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Cory Mottice, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Billings, Montana, said rain is not in the immediate forecast, and cooler temperatures will lessen the snowmelt in coming days.

"This is flooding that we've just never seen in our lifetimes before," he said.

Happy the elephant not a person, NY court rules

By Michael Hill

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Happy the elephant may be intelligent and deserving of compassion, but she cannot be considered a person being illegally confined to the Bronx Zoo, New York's top court ruled Tuesday.

The 5-2 decision by the state Court of Appeals comes in a closely watched case that tested the boundaries of applying human rights to animals.

The zoo and its supporters warned that a win for advocates at the Nonhuman Rights Project could open the door to more legal actions on behalf of animals.

The court's majority echoed that point.

The decision, written by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, said that "while no one disputes that elephants are intelligent beings deserving of proper care and compassion," a writ of habeas corpus is intended to protect the liberty of human beings and

does not apply to a nonhuman animal like Happy.

The decision affirms a lower court decision and means Happy will not be released through a habeas corpus proceeding, which is a way for people to challenge illegal confinement. Granting that right to Happy to challenge her confinement "would have an enormous destabilizing impact on modern society," read the majority decision.

Indeed, followed to its logical conclusion, such a

determination would call into question the very premises underlying pet ownership, the use of service animals, and the enlistment of animals in other forms of work," read the decision.

Two judges, Rowan Wilson and Jenny Rivera, wrote separate, sharply worded dissents saying the fact that Happy is an animal does not prevent her from having legal rights.

The ruling from New York's highest court cannot be appealed.



A court rejected an effort to free Happy the elephant from confinement at a New York. BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP 2018

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WORLD & NATION

Loophole may shield Uvalde records

Victims' families may never obtain answers they seek

By Acacia Coronado
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — As public pressure mounts for more information on the deadly Uvalde school shooting, some are concerned that Texas officials will use a legal loophole to block records from being released — even to the victims' families — once the case is closed.

Since the May 24 shooting at an elementary school that left 19 children and two teachers dead, law enforcement officials have provided little or conflicting information, sometimes withdrawing statements hours after making them. State police have said some accounts were preliminary and may change as more witnesses are interviewed.

A number of questions remain unanswered by authorities: Why did police take more than an hour to enter the classroom and confront the gunman? What do their body cameras show? How did law enforcement officers communicate with one another and the victims during the attack? What happened when dozens of officers gathered outside the classroom, yet refrained from pursuing the shooter?

Officials have declined to release more details, citing the investigation.

In a letter received last week by media outlets, a law firm representing the City of Uvalde asked for the Texas attorney general's office to rule on records requested in relation to the shooting, citing 52 legal areas — including the section containing the loophole — that they believe exempt the records from being released.

Amid the growing silence, lawyers and advocates for the victim's families are beginning to fear they may never get the answers, that



A Texas Department of Public Safety officer keeps watch on June 3 in Uvalde, Texas, near a memorial outside Robb Elementary School. ERIC GAY/AP

authorities will close the case and rely on the exception to the Texas Public Information law to block the release of any more details.

"They could make that decision; they shouldn't have that choice," said Democratic state Rep. Joe Moody of El Paso, who since 2017 has led several efforts to amend the loophole. "To understand what our government is doing should not be that difficult — and right now it is very difficult."

The law's exception protects information from being released in crimes for which no one has been convicted. The Texas attorney general's office has ruled it applies when a suspect is dead. Salvador Ramos, the 18-year-old man who police say was responsible for the mass killing at Robb Elementary School, was fatally shot by law enforcement.

ment.

The loophole was created in the 1990s to protect those wrongfully accused or whose cases were dismissed, according to Kelley Shannon, executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. "It is meant to protect the innocent," Shannon said. But she said that in some cases "it is being used and misused in a way that was never intended."

Following the shooting, Dade Phelan, a Republican and speaker of the Texas House, took to Twitter to voice his continued support for closing the loophole during the Texas Legislature's next session, which begins in January.

"More than anything, the families of the Uvalde victims need honest answers and transparency," Phelan tweeted. He said it would

be "absolutely unconscionable" to deny information based on the "dead suspect loophole."

Charley Wilkison, executive director of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said the organization was opposed and "will always be opposed" to a loophole amendment proposed in previous years that he said would have allowed the release of records pertaining to law enforcement officers, even those falsely accused of wrongdoing. He said that would negatively affect the officers' ability to keep working. But Wilkison said he would be willing to participate in future discussions in an attempt to find a middle ground.

Public focus in the Uvalde shooting has been on school district police Chief Pete Arredondo. Steven McCraw,

head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said recently that Arredondo believed the active shooting had turned into a hostage situation, and that he made the "wrong decision" to not order officers to breach the classroom more quickly to confront the gunman.

Arredondo has not responded to requests for comment from The Associated Press. In an interview with The Texas Tribune published Thursday, he said he did not consider himself in charge of the law enforcement response and assumed someone else had taken control.

The New York Times reported Thursday that it obtained documents showing police waited for protective equipment as they delayed entering the campus, even as they became aware that some

victims needed medical treatment.

If efforts to amend the public information loophole fail and law enforcement continues to refuse to release information, families could turn to any involved federal agencies. In one case in Mesquite, Texas, the parents of an 18-year-old who died after being arrested received records from federal authorities showing that police had used more force against their son than they had originally understood. The police had refused to turn over any information under the legal loophole.

"If someone dies in police custody, this is when we would want to open all of our records," the father, Robert Dyer, said as he testified before the legislature in 2019 in favor of amending the legal exception.

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‘It feels like a never-ending battle’

Parents of preterm infants struggle amid formula shortage

By Catherine Pearson
The New York Times

Cameron Stripling’s twin girls were born in February, 13 weeks before their due date and weighing a little over 1 pound each. Although one of her babies is still in a neonatal intensive care unit in Anchorage, Alaska — six hours from her home — Stripling, 27, considers herself “really, really lucky.”

So far, her daughters have avoided the major health complications that can pose a risk to extremely preterm infants, such as brain bleeds or infections. One of her babies was discharged in late May. Yet, despite her overall positivity, Stripling said her days were grueling and her thoughts were consumed by the nationwide baby formula shortage.

Stripling, her husband, their 4-year-old and one of the twins are living in a single bedroom at the Fisher House, a nonprofit that offers military families housing while a loved one receives medical care. Every day, Stripling and her husband trade off who visits the hospital. And every week, they drive from store to store, searching for Enfamil NeuroPro EnfaCare, a high-calorie formula their twins need to supplement breastfeeding.

When her daughter was discharged, the hospital was unable to send her home with any formula. And Stripling and her husband have only been able to track down a handful of cans at a grocery store tucked away on a residential road.

“Something is not right,” she said. “There is no way that we should be having this problem.”

As the formula crisis drags on, government officials are attempting to address the immense pressure that has been put on parents such



Cameron Stripling feeds one of her daughters with a high-calorie formula needed because the infant was born 13 weeks before her due date, in Anchorage, Alaska. Parents are struggling to find the special formula. **ACACIA JOHNSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

as Stripling, whose babies have specific dietary needs and who cannot simply buy whatever is on the shelves. The U.S. military has airlifted hypoallergenic baby formula from Europe.

On June 4, Abbott Nutrition, the manufacturer that had to recall formula in February, announced that its plant in Sturgis, Michigan, had restarted production of its specialized EleCare formula. It should be released to consumers by Monday, and the manufacturer said it was “working hard” to restart production of other formulas as well.

But parents of preterm infants, such as Stripling,

and those who must are at greater risk for mental health complications, such as postpartum depression and post-traumatic stress.

“It is already incredibly challenging to be a NICU parent,” said Dr. Vivien Yap, NICU medical director at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital for Women and Newborns. “This formula shortage is likely exacerbating the stress.”

Of course, breast milk is the preferred form of nutrition for all babies, Yap said, and can be beneficial for preterm infants, helping them fight infection.

But many parents cannot or do not breastfeed. And it can be especially difficult to breastfeed if you are a mother who is admitted to the hospital with your own medical complications while your baby is in the NICU, or if your preterm infant cannot yet suck or swallow and has to be fed through a tube, said

Dr. Rashmin Savani, chief of neonatal-perinatal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Texas.

“Almost all preterm infants — especially those less than 35 weeks gestation at birth — require specialized formulas or supplemented breast milk for appropriate growth and development, particularly for long-term bone growth,” Savani said.

Many of those babies

come home from the hospital still needing to be fed a specialized formula, and the ongoing shortage exacerbates how difficult that time of change can be for families still trying to find their footing.

“They have to transition from a technology-rich environment with multiple staff looking after their baby to a home environment without this level of scrutiny,” Savani said. NICU families must travel to and from numerous follow-up appointments, and many have to learn to

manage with home medical devices, such as feeding tubes, he said.

Now, parents have the added fear of depriving a vulnerable child of vital nutrition, which they know could impact their growth and development, he said.

For moms such as Anna Grymes, 38, the weight of it all feels relentless.

“You’re trying to bond with your baby, and do all of the things that mothers feel pressure to do in the beginning,” said Grymes, who gave birth in March at 35 weeks gestation. “You are sleep deprived. Your hormones are racing through your body. And now you have this fear of ‘How am I going to feed her?’”

She now spends hours every day pumping milk and scouring store shelves for the specialized formula her daughter drinks.

Grymes, who is a single parent and works full-time, is tired. One day, she drove to five stores near her home

in Jacksonville, Florida, and came up empty-handed — worrying all the while that she may have exposed her baby to the coronavirus while simply trying to track down her food.

In the absence of meaningful support or a clear sense of when this will all end, parents have done what they can, establishing formula exchanges and local online groups that help them swap and locate cans.

Experts say parents should also lean heavily on their children’s pediatricians.

But sometimes, pediatric practices aren’t able to come up with extra supplies either. There have been reports of families who have run out of formula heading to the emergency room for help. Fortunately, Yap offered reassurance that “hospital supply is not in jeopardy at this time.”

But as specialized formula remains scarce on store shelves and online, some frustrated parents are turning to measures they never anticipated.

Mary Chappell, 19, gave birth to her daughter at 33 weeks, and has been unable to find the specialized formula she was prescribed anywhere near her home in Joplin, Missouri, about 160 miles south of Kansas City.

Instead, she has had to give her baby a combination of a standard formula that left her with a cracked and bleeding face rash, and about 200 ounces of donated breast milk from a mother on an informal sharing site.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Food and Drug Administration advises against informal milk swaps because of the potential risk for introducing babies’ systems to bacteria, drugs or life-threatening infections.

But Chappell does not see what choice she has. Her baby, who has already been through so much, must eat.

“It feels like a never-ending battle,” she said.



Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., holds up a chart of fraud statistics as he conducts a hearing of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis on Tuesday. **JOE RAEDLE/GETTY**

Clyburn: Trump to blame for COVID-19 aid program fraud

By Jennifer McDermott and Geoff Mulvihill
Associated Press

The U.S. failed to take basic steps at the start of the coronavirus pandemic to prevent fraud in a federal aid program intended to help small businesses, depleting the funds and making people more vulnerable to identity theft, the chairman of a House panel examining the payouts said Tuesday.

Democratic Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina blamed the Trump administration for the problems in the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, overseen by the U.S. Small Business Administration, amid revelations that as much as 20% of the money — tens of billions of dollars — may have been awarded to fraudsters.

Clyburn said the Biden administration has implemented measures to identify potential fraud and directed loan officers to address indications of fraud before approving loans, while Congress has invested in fraud prevention and accountability.

Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the No. 2

House Republican, said the Trump administration and Congress worked together at the beginning of the pandemic, when uncertainty was rampant and much of the economy was locked down, to deliver “much needed relief as fast as we could to help save as many jobs as we could” and prevent the economy from crashing.

Scalise said Democrats are undermining the successes, and asked why the House coronavirus panel Clyburn chairs wasn’t looking into the enhanced unemployment insurance program that was plagued by “egregious and unprecedented fraud” and is a “leading contributor” to high inflation rates.

Clyburn said the subcommittee will determine what more must be done to bring perpetrators of fraud to justice and how to protect future programs.

Clyburn said he supports extending the statute of limitations for this kind of fraud case to give investigators more time to untangle complex potential crimes.

The SBA’s inspector general, Hannibal “Mike” Ware, said initially there was a huge struggle at the agency about the “need for speed versus the need for controls.” He said he was “screaming” about the need for fraud controls.

billion distributed from the \$400 billion EIDL program could have been fraudulent, much of it in scams using stolen identities. Separately, staff for the select subcommittee on Tuesday issued a report that found that some 1.6 million applications for the loans may have been approved without being evaluated.

The subcommittee’s staff found that those loans were approved in batches of up to 500 applications at a time. Applications were allowed to move through even if they had certain red flags for fraud — such as international client locations or phone numbers not associated with the business or the owner — so long as there weren’t too many of them.

The process meant that while software analyzed the applications, they were not even opened by officials before being greenlighted for funding.

The SBA’s inspector general, Hannibal “Mike” Ware, said initially there was a huge struggle at the agency about the “need for speed versus the need for controls.” He said he was “screaming” about the need for fraud controls.

Biden to visit ‘pariah’ Saudi Arabia, Israel and West Bank

By Aamer Madhani, Zeke Miller and Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden confirmed on Tuesday that he will visit Saudi Arabia next month for talks with its leaders, a dramatic change in his stance on the kingdom that he pledged to make a “pariah” as a Democratic candidate for the White House.

With the visit at the tail end of a July 13-16 Middle East trip that includes stops in Israel and the West Bank, Biden is edging off his adversarial stance against the Saudis’ human rights record. He’s looking to reset the relationship at a time when the U.S. could use help from the oil-rich kingdom to alleviate soaring pump prices at home and around the globe.

The stop in Saudi Arabia will include talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto leader of the kingdom, according to White House and Saudi officials. U.S. intelligence officials have determined the prince likely ordered the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Biden on Tuesday bristled when asked about his upcoming visit to Jeddah and noted that his team had laid out in a statement “everything I’m doing in the Middle East.”

Human rights advocates and some Democratic allies cautioned Biden, saying a visit to the kingdom without first getting human rights commitments would send a message to Saudi leaders that there are no consequences for egregious rights violations. The Saudis have been accused of using mass arrests, executions and violence to squelch dissent.

But amid skyrocketing gas prices, growing worries about Iran’s nuclear program and perpet-



President Biden’s scheduled trip to Saudi Arabia in July is causing concern. **NICHOLAS KAMM/GETTY-AFP**

ual concern that China is expanding its global footprint, Biden and his national security team have determined that freezing out the Saudis, particularly the crown prince, is not in the U.S. interest.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the No. 2 Senate Democrat, told CNN that Biden “has a tough job dealing with gasoline prices and trying to find ways to find new sources and supplies to bring down inflation in the energy sector.”

But Durbin said he had “mixed feelings” about the visit, calling the Saudi’s human rights record “an outrage.”

The Senate’s No. 2 Republican leader accused Biden of paying too little attention to American energy.

John Thune of South Dakota said, “It just seems having to go hat in hand to the Saudis to try and get them to increase energy production because we won’t do it here, I think it’s unfortunate that an American president is put in that position.”

The Saudi Embassy in Washington described the visit as coming at the king’s invitation “to strengthen the historical bilateral relations and the distinguished strategic partnership between” the two countries.

The White House an-

nounced the trip after Saudi Arabia this month helped nudge OPEC+ to ramp up oil production by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August, and the kingdom agreed to extend a United Nations-mediated ceasefire in its seven-year war with Yemen.

Hala al-Dosari, a prominent rights advocate in Saudi Arabia now living and teaching in the United States, said Biden’s decision to meet with the crown prince is “a betrayal.”

She also raised concerns that Biden’s visit to Israel glosses over last month’s fatal shooting of prominent American Palestinian Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu-Akleh in the West Bank. Independent investigations concluded Israeli fire likely killed the veteran journalist. Israel has said it would investigate.

Al-Dosari accused the administration of “prioritizing immediate interests over long-term goals of supporting democratic transitions” in Arab countries and “the immediate interests of securing more oil, and support for Israel.”

Biden’s first stop will be in Israel for a long-planned visit with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Jerusalem. He will then meet with Palestinian Authority leaders, including Mahmoud Abbas, in the West Bank.

The trip to Israel comes at a fraught time for Bennett’s fragile coalition, as he tries to avert another election and the potential return to power of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Palestinians, meanwhile, will be looking for progress on reopening the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. It served Palestinians before the Trump administration shut it in 2018 and folded its work into the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem as part of the controversial recognition of that city as the capital of Israel.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Fisher-Price rockers pose infant death risk, maker, officials warn

From news services

WASHINGTON — Fisher-Price and U.S. product safety regulators are telling parents not to let their infants fall asleep in the company's rockers after 13 infants died in the devices between 2009 and 2021.

The deaths happened when the babies fell asleep in Fisher Price's Infant-to-Toddler and Newborn-to-Toddler rockers. The company, along with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, said the rockers should never be used for sleep and infants should never be left unsupervised or unrestrained in them.

Fisher-Price, a division of El Segundo, California-based Mattel Inc., recalled a similar product last year after four infants died after they were placed on their backs unrestrained in the 4-in-1 Rock 'n Glide Soother. Those fatalities, all children under 4 months old, occurred between April 2019 and February 2020.

In 2019, the CPSC recalled a similar Fisher-Price product, the Rock 'n Play Sleeper, after 30 infant fatalities were reported. Doctors, parents and consumer advocates had warned the company for years that the product was unsafe and should be recalled.

CPSC Commissioner Richard Trumka said a gag order implemented by Congress in 1981 prevented the agency from issuing an immediate warning to consumers without first seeking permission from the product's maker. In the most recent case, Trumka said the gag order delayed the warning message by two months.

"Congress must immediately repeal the gag rule," Trumka said in a release separate from Tuesday's product warning. "If CPSC cannot issue timely warnings, dangers will remain

hidden in people's homes."

A new rule finalized by the CPSC requires that infant sleep products have a sleep surface angle of 10 degrees or less. The rule goes into effect June 23.

Consumers are encouraged to report incidents involving these or other infant products to the CPSC at saferproducts.gov.

Moderna vaccine for kids: A government advisory panel Tuesday endorsed a second brand of COVID-19 vaccine for school-age children and teens.

The Food and Drug Administration's outside experts voted unanimously that Moderna's vaccine is safe and effective enough to give kids ages 6 to 17. If the FDA agrees, it would become the second option for those children, joining Pfizer's vaccine.

The same FDA expert panel will meet Wednesday to consider tot-sized shots from Moderna and Pfizer for the youngest kids, those under 5.

If the FDA authorizes Moderna's vaccine for teens and younger children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will next decide whether to recommend the shots.

China mayor apologizes: The mayor of a northeastern Chinese city on the North Korean border that has been under lockdown for more than 50 days has apologized for failures in his administration's work amid widespread — but often disguised — dissatisfaction over the government's heavy-handed approach to handling the pandemic.

Dandong Mayor Hao Jianjun gave no specifics, but said government work and basic services had been "unsatisfactory," for which he offered his apologies, according to a statement issued by the city



People create a circle of white roses during a memorial service Tuesday at London's Westminster Abbey to remember the 72 victims of the Grenfell fire. Early on June 14, 2017, a fire broke out in the 24-story apartment building in North Kensington. The fire spread to all floors and burned for 60 hours due to the building's exterior cladding. **JONATHAN BRADY/POOL PHOTO VIA GETTY**

government late Monday.

It is highly unusual for a ranking Communist Party official to publicly concede errors, particularly regarding the hardline "zero-COVID" policy that has been repeatedly endorsed by top officials under President and party leader Xi Jinping.

Despite reporting only a handful of cases, Dandong has seen one of the strictest lockdowns in China.

Unable to root out the source of new cases, Dandong officials took increasingly extreme measures that included recommending the city's 2.4 million residents close their windows to prevent the virus being blown in from North Korea.

Britain migrant plan: Britain has canceled its first deportation flight to Rwanda after a last-minute intervention by the European Court of Human Rights, which decided there was "a real risk of irreversible harm" to the asylum seekers involved.

The flight had been

scheduled to leave Tuesday evening but lawyers for the asylum seekers launched a flurry of case-by-case appeals seeking to block the deportation of everyone on the government's list.

The decision to scrap Tuesday's flight caps three days of frantic court challenges as immigration rights advocates and labor unions sought to stop the deportations. The leaders of the Church of England joined the opposition, calling the government's policy "immoral."

Earlier in the day, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had emphatically defended the plan, arguing that the move is a legitimate way to protect lives and thwart the gangs that smuggle migrants across the English Channel in small boats.

Johnson announced an agreement in April in which people who entered Britain illegally would be deported to Rwanda. In exchange for accepting them, Rwanda would receive millions of dollars in development aid.

The deportees would be allowed to apply for asylum in Rwanda, not Britain.

Opponents have argued that it is illegal and inhumane to send people thousands of miles to a country they don't want to live in.

Putin critic transferred: Allies of imprisoned opposition politician Alexei Navalny sounded the alarm Tuesday when they discovered he was no longer in the prison where he had been serving his time.

But late in the day, the chairman of a prison monitoring commission said Navalny had been transferred to a maximum-security prison nearby.

Prison transfers in Russia sometimes take days and are shrouded in secrecy. Navalny, the most determined political foe of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was arrested in January 2021 upon returning from Germany, where he had been recuperating from nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin.

lin, and handed a 2½-year sentence for a parole violation. In March, Navalny was sentenced to nine years in prison on charges of fraud and contempt of court.

Cambodia treason trials: A Cambodian American lawyer and dozens of members of a now-dissolved opposition party were convicted of treason Tuesday in a trial that is part of efforts to tame opposition to the long-running rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Lawyer Theary Seng and most of the other defendants were charged over a failed attempt by Sam Rainsy, the leader of the defunct Cambodia National Rescue Party, to return from exile in 2019. Cambodian authorities alleged that the 60 defendants were involved in organizing his trip, which Theary Seng and the others have denied.

Cambodian courts are widely believed to be under the influence of Hun Sen, whose authoritarian rule has kept him in power for 37 years.

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BUSINESS

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Stocks slip amid worries of big rate hike from Fed

By Stan Choe and Damian J. Troise

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Most stocks on Wall Street dipped Tuesday in their first trading after tumbling into a bear market on worries that high inflation will push central banks to clamp the brakes too hard on the economy.

The S&P 500 fell 14.15, or 0.4%, to 3,735.48 as investors braced for the Federal Reserve's announcement Wednesday about how sharply it will raise interest rates. It wobbled between losses and gains through the day after a couple big companies flexed financial strength with stronger profits and payouts to shareholders.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 151.91 points, or 0.5%, to 30,364.83. The Nasdaq composite rose 19.12, or 0.2%, to 10,828.35 after swinging between a loss of 0.7% and a gain of 1.1%.

Despite the swings, trading across markets was still calmer than during Monday's worldwide rout, which sent the S&P 500 down 3.9%. Stocks fell more than 1% in Tokyo and Paris but rose that much in Shanghai. A measure of nervousness among investors on Wall Street eased, even

as Treasury yields again pierced their highest levels in more than a decade.

"No one's going to take meaningful positions today ahead of what could be a rip-roaring day" with the Fed's announcement, said Katie Nixon, chief investment officer for Northern Trust Wealth Management.

Cryptocurrency prices continued to swing. They've been among the hardest-hit in this year's sell-off for markets as the Federal Reserve and other central banks raise interest rates to rein in inflation and turn off the "easy mode" that helped prop up markets for years. Bitcoin was down nearly 5% and sitting at \$22,201, according to CoinDesk. It earlier fell to nearly 70% below its record of nearly \$68,991 set last year.

Offering some support to the market was a report that showed inflation at the wholesale level was a touch lower in May than expected, though it remains high. It could be an indication that wholesale inflation peaked in March, according to Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Cresset Capital Management.

But economists said the data won't keep the Federal Reserve from raising its key

interest rate Wednesday by a larger-than-usual amount. Investors are expecting the biggest increase since 1994, a hike of three-quarters of a percentage point, or triple the usual amount.

A week ago, such a mega-increase was seen as only a remote possibility. But a market-bludgeoning report Friday on inflation at the consumer level has seemingly pinned the Fed into getting more aggressive. It showed inflation for the consumer price index got worse in May.

"It's really a split decision in terms of the market as to whether that will be a good thing or a bad thing," Nixon said of a big rate increase. "It certainly opens the door to additional big hikes in the future."

Treasury yields continued to climb, with the two-year yield touching its highest level since November 2007, before the financial crisis, according to Tradeweb. The 10-year yield during the day reached its highest level since April 2011.

They also had a relatively reliable warning signal of recession in the bond market flashing on and off. In afternoon trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury had climbed back above the two-year yield, at 3.47% versus 3.41%.

Recession may not be on way, say economists

By Christopher Rugaber

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Is the United States at risk of enduring another recession, just two years after emerging from the last one?

For now, most economists don't foresee a downturn in the near future.

Despite the inflation squeeze, consumers — the primary driver of the economy — are still spending at a healthy pace.

Businesses are investing in equipment and software, reflecting a positive outlook. And the job market is still booming, with hiring strong, layoffs low and many employers eager for more workers.

"Nothing in the U.S. data is currently suggesting a recession is imminent," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote Tuesday. "Job growth remains strong and households are still spending."

That said, Farooqi cautioned, "the economy faces headwinds."

On Wednesday, the Fed is set to raise its benchmark interest rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, by as much as three-quarters of a percentage point. That would be the Fed's largest rate hike since 1994, and it could herald the start of a period of especially aggressive credit tightening by the central bank — and with it, a higher risk of recession.

Analysts say the U.S. economy, which has thrived for years on the fuel of ultra-low borrowing costs, might not be able to withstand the impact of much higher rates.

The nation's unemployment rate is at a near-half-century low of 3.6%, and employers are posting a near record number of open jobs.

Yet even an economy with a healthy labor market can eventually suffer a recession if borrowing becomes costlier and consumers and businesses put a brake on spending.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

SKorea truckers end 8-day strike

SEOUL, South Korea — Truckers in South Korea ended an eight-day strike that caused major disruptions to domestic production and cargo transport, their union and the government announced after negotiations Tuesday.

Thousands of truckers joined the nationwide strike, calling for an extension of temporary guarantees of minimum wages amid soaring fuel prices. The strike's damage has been largely limited to domestic industries, though experts say a prolonged strike could have undermined global supply chains.

The Transport Ministry agreed to seek to extend the current rules on minimum wage guarantees and consider increasing fuel subsidies for truckers.

Producer prices up 10.8% in May

WASHINGTON — U.S. producer prices surged 10.8% in May from a year earlier, underscoring the ongoing threat to the economy from inflation.

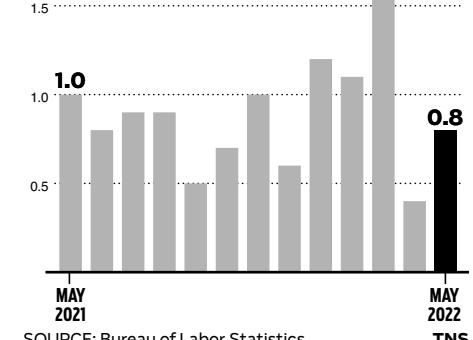
Tuesday's Labor Department report showed the producer price index — which measures inflation before it reaches consumers — rose at a slightly slower pace last month than in April, and is down from an 11.5% yearly gain in March.

Energy prices, led by gas, rose 5% just in May from April. Another big driver of the price gains last month was a sharp 2.9% increase in the cost of truck freight hauling. Food costs were unchanged.

The figures indicate that rising prices will continue to erode Americans' paychecks and wreak havoc on household budgets.

Producer price index

Index of prices U.S. producers receive for goods and services, percent change from previous month



It's swim at your own risk

With lifeguards so scarce, it is beach season that desperately needs rescuing, experts say

By Julie Bosman

The New York Times

MILWAUKEE — On the first week of June in Wisconsin, beachgoers on a neatly groomed Lake Michigan shore strolled past volleyball nets on rainbow-striped poles and a waterfront cafe.

Only one thing was missing. Instead of traditional wooden lifeguard stands, there was a cherry-red life preserver and a sign: "No lifeguard on duty. Swim at your own risk."

Lifeguards are frustratingly scarce this year, leaving tens of thousands of the nation's pools closed and beaches unguarded, and the public distanced from a stalwart of the American summer.

In Milwaukee County, a network of public pools is more closed than open.

At least five facilities have been shuttered, and four pools will be open to the public, officials said.

At popular beaches on Lake Michigan, swimmers must navigate crashing waves

and dangerous riptides on their own.

The hiring woes stretch across the country: Officials in Austin, Texas, said they have yet to find willing lifeguards for half of the 750 positions they hope to fill. In Cincinnati, hiring fell so short that only eight of the city's 23 pools could open.

"It feels like a problem that is unsolvable," said Jim Tarantino, the deputy director of Milwaukee County Parks, which manages the city's pools, said of the closures. "We're as devastated as the community is."

City officials and industry experts point to a crush of factors driving the lifeguard shortage. A low unemployment rate has given young people plentiful job options. Because of COVID-19-related limits during the pandemic, swimming lessons and lifeguard courses were often suspended for parts of the last two years, poking holes in an already weak training pipeline. And employers are choosing from a smaller group of applicants: In states like Wisconsin, there are simply fewer teenagers than in decades past, as residents have increasingly chosen to have smaller families.

"It's the worst we've ever seen it," said Bernard Fisher, director of health and safety at the American Lifeguard Association, who added that one-third of the

nation's beaches and pools are affected by the shortage.

Even for pools that are staying open, many are canceling swim lessons and assigning their instructors to work as lifeguards, complicating the training issue in the future. "If we don't keep training new lifeguards all summer, it's going to be a long time before we get out of this," Fisher said.

Desperate for help, cities and private employers have dangled perks and raised hourly wages. Six Flags St. Louis has offered up to \$18 an hour to lifeguards and promised a \$500 bonus. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Parks Department covered the cost of lifeguard training this year, helping to attract enough applicants to staff its pools.

In New Orleans, known for its sweltering, humid summers, lifeguards are paid \$15.91 an hour, a jump from just under \$12 an hour last year, said Larry Barabino Jr., the chief executive of New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, the organization that runs the city's parks and pools.

"We've been on the news, we've been on social media, we've been on the radio," Barabino said.

But it has not worked. Only five of the city's 13 seasonal pools will be open this summer.

Tesla automation gets scrutiny over crashes

By Tom Krisher

Associated Press

DETROIT — The government will soon release data on collisions involving vehicles with autonomous or partially automated driving systems that will likely single out Tesla for a disproportionately high number of such crashes.

In coming days, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration plans to issue figures it has been gathering for nearly a year. The agency said in a separate report last week that it had documented more than 200 crashes involving Teslas that were using Autopilot, "Full Self-Driving," Traffic-Aware Cruise Control or some other partially automated Tesla system.

Tesla's figure and its crash rate per 1,000 vehicles was substantially higher than the corresponding numbers for other automakers that provided such data to Associated Press ahead of the NHTSA's release. The number of Tesla collisions was revealed as part of an NHTSA investigation of Teslas on Autopilot that had crashed into emergency and other vehicles stopped along roadways.

Tesla does have many more vehicles with partly automated systems on U.S. roads than most other automakers — roughly 830,000, dating to the 2014 model year. And it collects real-time data from vehicles, so it has a much faster reporting system.

In a June 2021 order, the NHTSA told more than 100 automakers and automated vehicle tech companies to report serious

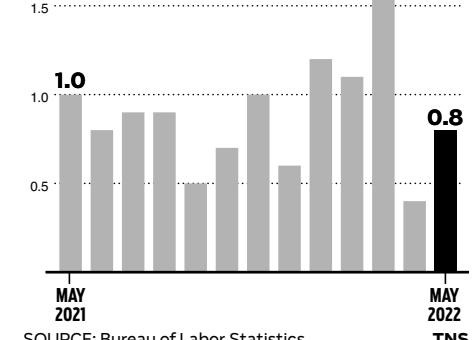
crashes within one day of learning about them and to disclose less-serious crashes by the 15th day of the following month. The agency is assessing how the systems perform, whether they endanger public safety and whether new regulations may be needed.

A message was left seeking comment from Tesla, which has disbanded its media relations department. The NHTSA wouldn't comment on the data Tuesday.

Tesla has said that Autopilot and "Full Self-Driving" cannot drive themselves, and that drivers should be ready to intervene at all times. But in documents released last week, NHTSA questioned whether human drivers can intervene fast enough to prevent crashes.

Producer price index

Index of prices U.S. producers receive for goods and services, percent change from previous month



BUSINESS



The dam at El Capitan Reservoir in Lakeside, California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is moving to offer billions in federally backed loans to fix aging dams. GREGORY BULL/AP

Aging dams could benefit from \$7B fed loan program

By David A. Lieb

Associated Press

Eight years after Congress created the program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking a first step toward offering more than \$7 billion of federally backed loans to repair aging dams owned by states, local governments and private entities across the U.S.

The Corps published a proposed rule for the low-interest loan program last Friday, starting a process that is expected to open applications for the aid in 2023, said Aaron Snyder, interim director of the Corps' Water Infrastructure Financing Program.

The Corps' National Inventory of Dams lists more than 92,000 structures across the U.S., most of which are privately owned. The safety of the nation's dams has garnered increased public scrutiny in recent years, in part because of high-profile failures that forced the evacuation of thousands of residents in Michigan and California.

"There is a need to rehabilitate quite a number of

our dams in the U.S.," said Chuck Thompson, chief of the New Mexico Dam Safety Bureau and president of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

But he added, "The rehabilitation of a large facility like a dam requires quite a bit of funding, and it's the sort of thing that even the larger owners often struggle with."

A recent Associated Press analysis tallied more than 2,200 dams in poor or unsatisfactory condition that are classified as high-hazard, meaning their failure likely would unleash a flood killing at least one person. That figure was up substantially from a similar AP analysis three years earlier.

The nation's dams have an average age of 61 years and often pose a greater risk than when they were designed and constructed. Homes, businesses and highways have been built below dams that once were in remote locations. A changing climate with intense rainstorms has strained some dams beyond their original designs.

Maintenance also has been deferred, often because

dam owners lack the money.

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials estimates it could cost nearly \$76 billion to rehabilitate the almost 89,000 dams owned by individuals, companies, community associations, states, local governments and other entities besides the U.S. government.

Most states don't have grant or loan programs targeted for repairing dams. Until recently, federal money for dam improvements also has been limited.

Since 2019, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has divided nearly \$32 million among 35 states and Puerto Rico to design and make repairs on high-hazard dams. Last year's infrastructure law pumped an additional \$585 million into that program, including \$75 million set aside for dam removal.

It also provided \$118 million to rehabilitate aging dams built through the National Resources Conservation Service.

But all that pales in comparison to the billions of dollars in loans soon to be available through the Corps.

Ship owners tried to cruise around new pollution rules

By Ed Davey
Associated Press

The world's ocean freight shipping companies recently called on international maritime authorities to exclude pollution that their vessels spew in bad weather from new regulations, a condition that would apply almost a third of the time in the Atlantic.

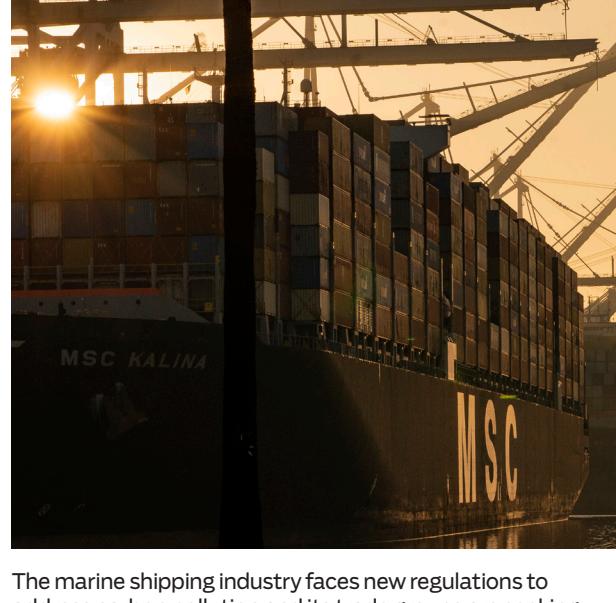
However, the effort failed Friday.

Under international laws due to take effect in 2023, all big vessels will be rated from A to E by how much carbon dioxide flows from their stacks for every mile traveled and ton carried. The idea is to incentivize owners to install cleaner technologies. Although the proposed rules are currently toothless, nation-states might bring in penalties for high-polluting ships in the future.

In April, four trade groups, including the World Shipping Council, complained that the new rules would penalize ships that have to sail in rough conditions. This burns more fuel and produces more carbon dioxide, meaning ships in windy seas would get a worse carbon efficiency rating.

So the trade groups proposed to the International Maritime Organization in written submissions that periods of eight hours or more undertaken in bad weather be struck from the scoring entirely. They defined bad weather as wind speeds of 28 knots — about 32 mph — or waves more than 13 feet high.

"It would pretend that ships hardly ever sail in stormy weather and only calculate the carbon intensity of the ship under the most favorable conditions," said Bryan Comer, who heads up the marine program at the International Council of Clean Transportation.



The marine shipping industry faces new regulations to address carbon pollution and its trade groups are seeking exemptions for some pollution. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

The International Maritime Organization, made up of member countries, has rejected that idea.

Going slow is one of the best ways to reduce emissions. If they had won the exemption, ships could have gone as fast as they wanted in bad weather, Comer said, burning more fuel without it showing up in their ratings. This might enable them to hit tougher deadlines and win contracts.

"There is actually an incentive if this had gone forward to sail in adverse weather," said Comer.

According to the World Shipping Council, waves exceed 13 feet in the North Atlantic more than 30% of the time.

The World Shipping Council argued that factors like extreme weather "distort the picture and make the numbers less effective at driving the change we want."

The trade group conceded it was "logical at first glance" that the proposal might incentive ships to sail into heavy weather, but said the high cost of fuel made this very unlikely. It pointed out

sailing in rough seas can use 30% more fuel than in calmer weather, thus saddling ships with a worse rating. Ships that routinely traverse calm waters such as those off Nigeria would more easily win top grades while those that have to cross the Atlantic would automatically look worse.

"Failing to address these inequities, unfairly labels certain ships as 'inferior' because of the routes they serve," the World Shipping Council said.

James Gamble, a program director at Pacific Environment, which works to protect the Pacific Ocean and coastal communities, has also been following the negotiations.

The proposed regulations should be left as they are to achieve 2030 emissions targets, he said. While trade groups can give good advice on cutting emissions, their primary focus is on making members money, he said.

What was really at issue, Gamble said, is that "ships that are low-rated will be at a market disadvantage with customers who want to transport their goods with as little emissions as possible."

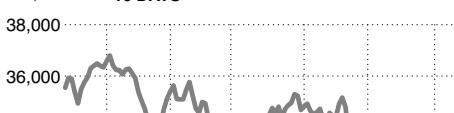
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Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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Commodities			
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	118.93	120.93	+58.13%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	7.19	8.61	+92.73%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.99	4.04	+79.23%
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,809.50	1,828.00	-.98%
Silver (oz)	20.94	21.24	-10.25%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

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China .1483 6.7410 6-mo. T-Bill 2.43 1.75

Euro 1.0411 .9605 5-yr T-Note 3.61 2.99

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Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Stocks of Local Interest			
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	11.92	+.44	-56.2
AT&T Inc (T)	19.45	-.31	-20.9
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	86.99	...	-39.5
Amazon.com Inc (AMZN)	102.31	-.136	-38.6
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	12.95	-.37	-27.9
Amphenol Corp (APH)	65.53	+.31	-25.1
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	5.92	-.10	-24.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	132.76	+.88	-25.2
Applied UV Inc (AUVI)	3.67	+.98	+35.9
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	43.26	-2.00	-13.3
Bank of America (BAC)	31.46	-.56	-29.3
Barnes Group (B)	33.08	+.19	-29.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	1951.51	-27.81	+16.9
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	72.87	-.71	+16.9
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	90.64	-.25	-12.1
Carnival Corp (CCL)	9.52	-.39	-52.7
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	35.94	-.55	-33.7
Charter Communc (CHTR)	451.97	-2.50	-30.7
Cigna Corp (CI)	245.71	+.48	+7.0
Citigroup (C)	45.96	+.27	-23.9
Clovis Oncology Inc (CLVS)	.81	+.11	-70.1
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	39.84	-.36	-20.8
Comera Life Sci Hld (CMRA)	2.65	+.148	-70.1
Disney (DIS)	94.22	-.149	-33.7
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	100.57	-.58	-21.1
Ethan Allen (ETD)	20.79	-.60	-20.9
Eversource Energy (ES)	80.74	-.16	-11.3
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.14	-.01	-84.4
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	96.10	+.25	+57.1
Ford Motor (F)	12.20	+.39	-41.3
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.32	+.02	-36.2
Gen Dynamics (GD)	215.90	-.163	+3.6
Gen Electric (GE)	68.05	+.33	-28.0
Hartford Fin Sv (HIG)	66.60	+.51	-3.5
Honeywell Intl (HON)	183.28	-.14	-12.1
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	11.29	-.13	-29.1
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	.62	-.16	-70.9
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	18.24	+.39	-27.9
Intel Corp (INTC)	37.93	+.16	-26.3
Kalaval Brands Innov (KAVL)	2.23	+.50	+199.3
Kaman (KAMN)	34.84	-.47	-19.3
Keycorp (KEY)	17.54	+.15	-24.2
Kinross Gold (KGC)	4.08	-.16	-29.8
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	48.32	+.58	-29.2
M&T Bank (MTB)	164.90	+.251	+7.4

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	29.40	+.77	-34.5	MetLife Inc (MET)	61.86	+.82	-1.0
Meta Platforms Inc (META)	163.73	-.53	-51.3	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	244.49	+.23	-27.3
MetLife Inc (MET)	61.86	+.82	-1.0	Mullen Automotiv (MULN)	1.07	+.02	-79.5
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	244.49	+.23	-27.3	Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	11.12	-.43	-46.4
Mullen Automotiv (MULN)	1.07	+.02	-79.5	Novartis AG (NVS)	80.52	-.20	-7.9
Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCL							

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Why memory of Jan. 6 can't stop a Trump resurgence



There are two metrics for the success of the House's Jan. 6 committee. One is within the committee's control: A fair and comprehensive accounting of how far

Donald Trump and his inner circle went in their effort to overturn the 2020 election — and how that effort interacted with mob violence — can serve future generations of Americans regardless of how it's received today.

But the committee's more immediate goal is to help prevent Trump's return to power, by further advertising his unfitness for the highest office in the land. And for that goal, success and failure are both largely out of its control, since even a pitch-perfect presentation will be at the mercy of partisan polarization, a balkanized media landscape and online life's remorseless pace.

Among those general forces, though, the biggest obstacle to the committee's Trump-disqualifying effort is a specific spirit, a shrugging, *everybody's implicated* sensibility — a view of our politics that sees norm-breaking all over, both right and left winking at riots and intimidation tactics, and Trump as one dubious actor among many.

Some of the people who hold this view are conservatives: not deep-dyed Trump-

ists, but Republicans who supported him with noses held and might vote against him in a primary, but who would probably back him again against Joe Biden or Kamala Harris. Others are swing voters, especially the disaffected kind that swung from Barack Obama to Trump in 2016, gave Biden a chance in 2020, but are swinging back rightward now.

Together, these constituencies make a Trump resurgence imaginable. Together, they're the Americans whose minds the committee wants to change, by convincing them that, in the drama of our times, Trump is a uniquely malign figure, that his quest for a constitutional crisis proved NeverTrumpism right once and for all.

I believe this myself. Unfortunately, I can also see how the *everybody's implicated* sensibility endures — because it's constantly reinforced by a liberal establishment officially committed to combating it. In this sense, the powers undermining the Jan. 6 committee include not just its Republican critics but some of its most devoted champions — from Democratic politicians who demand that conservatives vote for them to save democracy even as they themselves swing leftward, away from common ground, to media institutions whose sense of Trumpian emergency constantly undermines their claims of neutrality and fairness.

The past week brought a depressing example of this pattern. As the media

geared up to cover the Jan. 6 committee hearings, a young man seemingly motivated by liberal causes — a constitutional right to abortion and gun control — crossed the country with the apparent intention of assassinating Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh at his Maryland home. He was an isolated figure, but it was not an isolated act: Since the leak of the Supreme Court's draft opinion on abortion, justices have faced protests outside their homes and threats of violence, and anti-abortion organizations, especially crisis pregnancy centers, have been hit with arson and vandalism. (The Washington, D.C., center where my family used to donate diapers was a target.)

Yet the coverage of this campaign in mainstream news outlets has been limited. Kavanaugh's would-be assassin did make the pages of The New York Times and The Washington Post. But neither that specific threat — a constitutionally substantial one, given that an assassination really could tip the balance of the court — nor the general intimidation campaign has been treated as really big news, something that merits the intensive coverage that equivalent tactics from the right would undoubtedly receive.

It's a similar pattern to what you saw around the George Floyd protests in 2020, when much of the ostensibly neutral press found it politically difficult — as New York Magazine's Jonathan Chait put it recently — to use "clear language to describe the

rioting and looting that was springing up around some demonstrations or the effects of the de-policing that took place in some areas in response." Again and again, the spirit of emergency has converged with preexisting ideological bias to both downplay and tacitly encourage radicalization on the left.

This has pernicious effects on how liberals understand the world. Just as a lot of Fox News viewers don't know what they should about Jan. 6, I encountered many high-information liberals across late 2020 who had literally no idea about the scale of damage from the spring and summer rioting.

But more important, it has effects on Americans who do see the fuller story, who are extremely aware that there's more beyond the liberal media than just "disinformation" — and who are thereby drawn back toward a general skepticism, the *everybody's implicated* sensibility, no matter what you tell them about Trump.

Those voters will keep the former president politically viable until one of two things happen. He could be defeated within his own coalition in 2024. Otherwise, the liberal establishment somehow needs to change into a power that stands outside the gyre of polarization, rather than just widening it even more.

This article originally appeared in The New York Times.

What a dying lake says about the future



This month, The New York Times published a report on the drying up of the Great Salt Lake, a story I'm ashamed to admit had flown under my personal radar. We're not talking about a

hypothetical event in the distant future: The lake has already lost two-thirds of its surface area, and ecological disasters — salinity rising to the point where wildlife dies off, occasional poisonous dust storms sweeping through a metropolitan area of 2.5 million people — seem imminent.

As an aside, I was a bit surprised that the article didn't mention the obvious parallels with the Aral Sea, a huge lake the Soviet Union had managed to turn into a toxic desert.

In any case, what's happening to the Great Salt Lake is pretty bad. But what I found really scary about the report is what the lack of an effective response to the lake's crisis says about our ability to respond to the larger, indeed existential threat of climate change.

If you aren't terrified by the threat posed by rising levels of greenhouse gases, you aren't paying attention — which, sadly, many people aren't. And those who are or should be aware of that threat but stand in the way of action for the sake of short-term profits or political expediency are, in a real sense, betraying humanity.

That said, the world's failure to take action on climate, while inexcusable, is also understandable. For as many observers have noted, global warming is a problem that almost looks custom-designed to make political action difficult. In fact, the politics of climate change are hard for at least four reasons.

First, when scientists began raising the alarm in the 1980s, climate change looked like a distant threat — a problem for future generations. Some people still see it that way; last month a senior executive at the bank HSBC gave a talk in which he declared, "Who cares if Miami is 6 meters underwater in 100 years?"

This view is all wrong — we're already seeing the effects of climate change, largely in the form of a rising frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, like the megadrought in the American West that is contributing to the death of the Great Salt Lake.

But that's a statistical argument, which brings me to the second problem with climate change: It's not yet visible to the



The Great Salt Lake in Utah, seen in March, has already lost two-thirds of its surface area. BRYAN TARNOWSKI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

naked eye, at least the naked eye that doesn't want to see.

Weather, after all, fluctuates. Heat waves and droughts happened before the planet began warming; cold spells still happen even with the planet warmer on average than in the past. It doesn't take fancy analysis to show that there is a persistent upward trend in temperatures, but many people aren't convinced by statistical analysis of any kind, fancy or not, only by raw experience.

Then there's the third problem: Until recently, it looked as if any major attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would have significant economic costs. Serious estimates of these costs were always much lower than claimed by anti-environmentalists, and spectacular technological progress in renewable energy has made a transition to a low-emission economy look far easier than anyone could have imagined 15 years ago. Still, fears about economic losses helped block climate action.

Finally, climate change is a global problem, requiring global action — and offer-

ing a reason not to move. Anyone urging U.S. action has encountered the counter-argument, "It doesn't matter what we do, because China will just keep polluting." There are answers to that argument — if we ever do get serious about emissions, carbon tariffs will have to be part of the mix. But it's certainly an argument that affects the discussion.

As I said, all of these issues are explanations for inaction on climate, not excuses. But here's the thing: None of these explanations for environmental inaction apply to the death of the Great Salt Lake. Yet the relevant policymakers still seem unwilling or unable to act.

Remember, we're not talking about bad things that might happen in the distant future: Much of the lake is already gone, and the big wildlife die-off might begin as early as this summer. And it doesn't take a statistical model to notice that the lake is shrinking.

In terms of the economics, tourism is a huge industry in Utah. How will that industry fare if the famous lake becomes a

poisoned desert? And how can a state on the edge of ecological crisis still be diverting water desperately needed to replenish the lake to maintain lush green lawns that serve no essential economic purpose?

Finally, we aren't talking about a global problem. True, global climate change has contributed to reduced snowpack, which is one reason the Great Salt Lake has shrunk. But a large part of the problem is local water consumption; if that consumption could be curbed, Utah needn't worry that its efforts would be negated by the Chinese or whatever.

So this should be easy: A threatened region should be accepting modest sacrifices, some barely more than inconveniences, to avert a disaster just around the corner. But it doesn't seem to be happening.

And if we can't save the Great Salt Lake, what chance do we have of saving the planet?

Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

How Republicans are planning to win back control of the House

By Ramesh Ponnuru
Bloomberg Opinion

President Joe Biden's job approval is lower than Barack Obama's or Donald Trump's at this point in their presidencies. Each of those predecessors saw his party lose control of the House of Representatives in his second year in office.

Midterm elections typically go badly for the party in power. Its opponents are aggrieved, its supporters disappointed at worst or complacent at best. But the Democrats are facing an additional challenge this year: an issue environment that accentuates their weaknesses.

Inflation is unquestionably the top issue for American voters right now. A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 50% of voters trust Republicans more than Democrats on handling it, while only 31% had more faith in the Democrats. It's a big advantage, and it's not a fluke.

Inflation has been dormant for a long time in the U.S.: ABC News had not conducted a poll on which party was most

trusted on dealing with the problem since the George H. W. Bush administration. It turns out that the Republicans had roughly the same advantage 30 years ago, too.

It may be, then, that Democrats aren't just suffering because inflation has been high on their watch or even because Biden (like the Federal Reserve and many economists) clearly underestimated how long it would stay high. The public could just be primed to trust Republicans on the issue, the way it's primed to trust Democrats on, say, Medicare.

Democrats are trying to build their own reputation as inflation-fighters — presumably that is a key reason Biden wrote an op-ed about the subject for the Wall Street Journal — but also want to get voters to put a higher priority on other issues that are more favorable to their party. Abortion and gun violence top that list.

The same ABC/Post poll found the Democrats with a 10-point advantage on abortion, and many polls suggest they are in sync with public opinion in seeking stricter regulation of guns. On both issues,

however, intensity has often been on the side of conservatives.

Democrats are also eager to make a campaign issue out of Trump, and his disgraceful effort to stay in power after losing the 2020 election. But this tactic failed last year in Virginia, where Trump is less popular than he is nationally. It seems unlikely that it is going to move voters more this fall.

Republicans, of course, can also try to elevate other issues. They have been blaming progressive prosecutors for rising rates of violent crime and for public disorder, and think San Francisco's recent recall of its district attorney illustrates the potency of this issue. (The ABC/Post poll found that Republicans have a 12-point advantage on crime.) They have also laid the groundwork to attack Biden's immigration policies if conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border get visibly worse.

The issues Republicans want to highlight — inflation, crime, and illegal immigration — all fit into a larger conservative story about government. Each of them

involves a failure by the government at a core task: maintaining the value of the currency, suppressing violence, regulating the border.

They thus reinforce public suspicions about the competence of government and, therefore, about ambitious proposals for government-directed social change. They threaten the public's sense of stability, order and control — the very things conservative politicians specialize in offering, if they can avoid coming across as radicals themselves.

Democrats spent several months trying to enact a "Build Back Better" agenda with high-flown rhetoric about "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enact transformational policies that lift up people's lives." With voters upset about prices at the gas pump, that kind of talk now seems laughable. So, increasingly, does the prospect that Democrats will keep their majority in the U.S. House.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT (NAA) PROGRAM JUNE 16, 2022

A Public Hearing will be held in Hartford City Hall Council Chambers, 550 Main Street, 2nd Floor on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 5:00 pm to allow interested citizens an opportunity to express their opinions regarding the NAA Program as submitted to the City for next fiscal year funding.

The location of the public hearing is wheelchair accessible. Language interpreter(s) and interpreter(s) for the hearing impaired will be made available if requested in advance.

The Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) is a program of the State Department of Revenue Services (DRS) designed to encourage funding for municipal and tax exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses wishing to make cash contributions to qualifying entities. Up to \$5 million in tax credits will be made available in the State of Connecticut through the 2022 NAA program.

City Council approved NAA program proposals will be submitted to the State Department of Revenue Services (DRS) before July 1, 2022.

On or about September 15, 2022, the State Department of Revenue Services will provide the City of Hartford with a listing of approved program proposals. Between September 15, 2022 and October 1, 2022 area businesses electing to support organizations with approved program proposals must complete and submit an NAA-02 Application Form with the State Department of Revenue Services. Formal approval of any tax credits granted is expected from the Department of Revenue Services in January 2023.

For inquiries, please contact Ronnie Vazquez, NAA Liaison, at (860) 757-9284 or via email at Ronnie.Vazquez@hartford.gov.

The Neighborhood Assistance Act Program is authorized as per Chapter 228a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S., 12-631 - 12-638) and Public Act 95-268.

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

643 Farmington Ave. New Britain, CT 06053 860-357-6161

6/29/2022 10:00 AM

Unit 165 Patricia Griffin Household stuff

This auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage4treasures.com Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

6/15, 6/22/2022 7230472

INVITATION TO BID

Fusco Management Company, LLC invites contractors to submit sealed quotations for Snow Removal Services for the State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch. ONLY bidders holding current certification by the Dept. of Administrative Services, Business Set-Aside Unit as a Small Business, Minority-Owned Business or Woman-Owned Business are encouraged to bid on this contract.

Only one (1) representative per company will be allowed on the walk through. Bidders are required to attend a mandatory pre-bid walk-through on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 9:00 am for the following site:

1. Willimantic Adult Probation - 108 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT

We will meet outside at the front entrance and bidders will be required to sign in.

Bid packages will only be available at the walk-through.

Emailed bids must be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at Fusco Management Company, LLC, 555 Long Wharf Drive, Suite 14, New Haven, CT 06511, to smatteis@fusco.com.

Fusco Management Company, LLC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

6/15/22 7232416

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF CONCIERGE SERVICES FOR SENIORS, LLC

Pursuant to Section 34-213 of the Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that CONCIERGE SERVICES FOR SENIORS, LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company, was dissolved on June 6, 2022. A Certificate of Dissolution was filed with the Secretary of State as required by law.

Creditors of the corporation are hereby warned to present their claims in writing, with information sufficient to inform the corporation of the claimants' identities and the substance of their claims. Claims should be sent to:

Jessica Dornelas, Esq.
164 Newington Rd.,
West Hartford, CT 06110

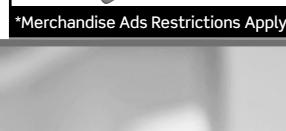
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Berlin	Newington
Merwin R. Anderson	Merwin R. Anderson
Dorothy Griffith	Roberta Soifer
Bloomfield	No Additional Town
Donald T. Korte	Jane B Metzidakis
Bristol	Other Towns in CT
Deborah D. Manchester	Paul H. Doucette I
Joseph J. Massa, Sr.	Anthony C. Janovicz
East Hartford	Barbara Kreidwise
Spencer T. Curry	Catherine Leining
Enfield	Deborah D. Manchester
Kevin C. Mooney	Carly-Ann Thompson
Farmington	Simsbury
Michael P. Sweeney	Michael P. Sweeney
Glastonbury	Vernon
Spencer T. Curry	Anthony C. Janovicz
Hebron	Marie L. Whitham
Tom R. Morris	West Hartford
Middletown	Emma Jean McNeil
Barbara Kreidwise	Donald T. Korte
	Roberta Soifer

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Anderson, Merwin R.

Merwin R. Anderson, 84, of Newington, CT passed away peacefully after a long illness on June 11, 2022, with his two daughters comforting him as he completed his journey and joined his wife and soulmate, Donna (Knaub) Anderson in heaven. He was born on July 20, 1937, in New Britain, CT, to the late Swan Thure and Helen (Larson) Anderson. He was a graduate of North Park College, in Chicago, IL. Merwin enjoyed vacationing with his family at Mousam Lake, Maine, canoeing, sailing, fishing, and cross-country skiing. He worked in the insurance industry in Hartford and was a Claims Manager for the CT Fair Plan for many years. Merwin was a lifelong member of the Bethany Covenant Church. He is survived by his daughter Karen Newpower and her husband George, his daughter Jill DiPinto, and his grandson, Nicholas DiPinto, all of whom were blessed by his love and care.

A private burial will be held at the West Meadow Cemetery, Newington. The memorial service will be held on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at Bethany Covenant Church, 785 Mill Street, Berlin, CT, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations in Merwin's memory may be made to Bethany Covenant Church. Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, New Britain, is in charge of arrangements. Please share a memory of Merwin with the family in the online guest book at www.ericksonhansen.com.

ERICKSON-HANSEN

New Britain

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Whitham, Marie Louise (Fornabi)

 Marie Louise (Fornabi) Whitham, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away on June 11, 2022 in her home surrounded by her family. Daughter of the late Michael and Angela (Angelo) Fornabi, Marie was born on Friday the 13th in April of 1928 in Hartford, CT. She was the widow of Wesley J. Whitham. She leaves two sons, Michael Whitham (Dona) of Coventry, CT; Scott Whitham (Brooke) of The Villages, FL; and a daughter Marina Cintron of Vernon, CT. She was grandmother to Amanda Gulino (Nicholas) of Oxford, MA; Alexander Whitham (Kelly) of Coventry, CT; and Jason Whitham (Grace) of Durham, NC.

In 2021 she was greatly blessed when all three of her grandchildren gave her great-grandchildren: Emily, Aria and Lily. These young girls were a source of great happiness over the last year.

She also leaves a sister, Frances Bowen of Queensbury, NY (with companion Paul), and a sister-in-law Anne Fornabi of South Windsor, CT. She also leaves her best friend of 90 years (like a sister) Mary Betters of Manchester, CT. Additionally, she leaves many much loved nieces, nephews, and special cousins, as well as many dear friends from the many churches she belonged to throughout her life.

Besides her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by her brother Anthony Fornabi, and her brother and sister-in-law Clifford and Lucile Whitham of Latham, NY; and brother-in-law Richard Bowen of Queensbury, NY. She was also pre-deceased by some very special loved ones including her aunt Deadora Natale who was like a sister to her, two cousins Marion Turnberg and Estelle McNamara, Frances Davis of Newington, CT, and dear friend Joseph Betters of East Hartford CT.

Marie worked for the United States Postal Service for twenty-four years and retired from management at the main office in Hartford affiliated with the New York Regional Procurement Office. For several years after retiring Marie and Wesley summered in Charleston, NH and wintered in Spring Hill, FL, before moving back to Connecticut. They also spent time traveling to parts of Europe, the Caribbean, and around the United States. Marie's faith was foremost in her life. She was honored to be asked to serve as Eucharistic Minister, and later became a professed Carmelite belonging to the Third Order of Carmelites. Her devotion to the Brown Scapular started in Charleston, NH and continued in Spring Hill, FL.

Her greatest joys were being mother and later a grandmother -- and eventually a great-grandmother. She kept smiles on the faces of her family and friends with her cooking and her baking at which she excelled.

Marie taught catechism for a time, and also served as Den Mother for the Cub Scouts and then as an Assistant Girl Scout Leader. In NH she was a "Story Lady" reading to the small children in the library. She and her mother were both talented seamstresses and made many gowns for the dances and social events she attended. Marie loved music and dancing, and she was proud to be an American. She loved art, especially pottery, and many of her sculptures adorned her house and those of her family as well. She also enjoyed UCONN women's basketball and the New England Patriots.

Finally, our family would like to express our immense gratitude to Dr. Richard Orris for his outstanding care and compassion over the past several years.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Rd. (Rt. 83) Vernon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 25 St. Bernard Terrace, Rockville, CT at 9:30 am. Please go directly to the church. Interment will be at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield following the Mass.

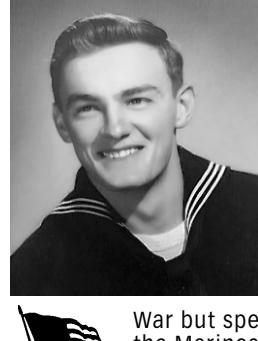
Memorial contributions can be made in Marie's name to Cornerstone Foundation, P. O. Box 3, 15 Prospect Street, Vernon, CT 06066 or to St. Bernard Catholic Church, 25 St. Bernard Terrace, Rockville, CT 06066. For online condolences and guest book, please visit our website at www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

Korte, Donald T.



Donald T. Korte, 86, of Simsbury, formerly of Windsor and Bloomfield, beloved husband of Margaret (McNeil) Korte passed away on Monday, June 13, 2022 at UCONN John Dempsey Hospital, Farmington. Born April 14, 1936 in Galena, IL, son of the late Leroy and Genevieve (Alberts) Korte. Donald proudly served in the US Navy as a Lieutenant Commander during the Korean

War but spent most of his time serving with the Marines, in fact he considered himself a Marine as much as he did a sailor. After the war he worked for Patent Scaffolding retiring as a Regional Manager at the age of sixty. After retiring he decided to give college a try, he attended UCONN and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in history and went on to author a book titled Galena's Baseball Legacy. Donald raised his family in Bloomfield, besides his wife Margaret, he is survived by four children, Pamela Chamberlain and her husband, Mark of Salt Lake City, UT, Kurt Korte of East Granby, John Korte and his wife, Linda of Newington, Maryann Brunton and her husband, Donald of Huntington, MA; a sister, Carol Hinde and her husband, Max of Montevideo, MN; seven grandchildren, Brooke Slizeski and her husband, Tanner, Brett Chamberlain and his wife, Kammy, Alexis Korte, Olivia Korte, Logan Korte, Christopher Korte and his wife Hannah, Chad Korte; three great grandchildren, Eliza, Victoria, Leo and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Korte; a sister, Jean Marrs.

Donald was a great American. As much as he was proud to serve his country, he was a true hero to his family and dedicated husband to his wife Meg of over 64 years. Don was committed to everything he did. After his college study and completing his book, Don spent his time coaching Little League and Junior baseball with his sons and grandsons. Don had great love for baseball and found enjoyment sharing his love for baseball with his children and grandchildren. He was a big fan of the Cubs and Red Sox and enjoyed watching both teams win World Series Championships. Don was very proud of his hometown of Galena, Illinois. He enjoyed the town's character, history, and most of all the people who live there. Don will be remembered as a true American hero to his family and friends who lived his life to the fullest with love and honor. We love you Donald Thomas Korte and will miss you forever. His family will receive friends on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 9:00-9:45 AM at Sacred Heart Church, 26 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church. Burial with military honors will be in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, please mail to Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Dr. Suite 400, McLean, VA 22102. To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

 **CARMON**
Community Funeral Homes

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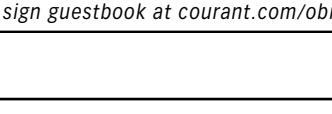
Curry, Spencer Tenant



Spencer Tenant Curry arrived seven weeks early on this earth and left early too, age 33, June 12, 2022. Born in Pasadena, CA on Jan 30, 1989, Spencer had been a resident of Glastonbury for the last 30 years, recently moving to East Hartford. He was predeceased by his great-grandmother, Margaret Karassik; grandparents, Norma and Frank Curry and Irwin Karassik. He has left behind his loving parents Beth Karassik and her partner, Gary LeBeau, and Ron Curry and his wife, Nancy Nesbitt of Glastonbury; his brother, Sam of South Windsor; his step-brother Ryan Riddle of New Haven, step-sisters Amy Riddle of New Haven and Taylor Scirocco of West Hartford; grandmother, Harriet Karassik of Norwalk; aunts and uncles Lauren and Stephen Weiss of Florham Park, NJ and Julianne Curry and Michael Drake of Glendora, CA; and cousins Lindsay of Los Angeles and Shelby Weiss of London; and a myriad of loving and loyal friends.

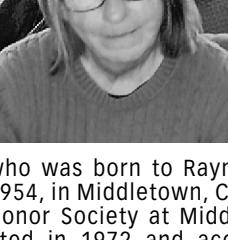
Spencer graduated from Glastonbury High School in 2007 and the University of Vermont in 2011, with a double major in Latin and Philosophy. Along with three elementary school friends, he was the founder of Fresh Farm Aquaponics, later named Trifecta Ecosystems. He would explain to people that he majored in Latin and Philosophy, "so now I'm a farmer." Still a farm owner, he had more recently moved into work in coding as an app developer and IT Consultant at Curry Web Services. Spencer had the heart of an artist and the mind of a visionary. He was a teacher, researcher, and philosopher at heart. He had to get to the facts, had to have things proven. He had an incredible power for synthesizing information and understanding systems. Spencer would not succumb to the conventional thinking of the masses. He died unexpectedly on June 12, 2022 and the world will never see what this beautiful young man would have continued to bring to it.

Funeral service will be Thursday, June 16, at 1 p.m. at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Green Cemetery, 99 Hubbard Street, Glastonbury. There are no calling hours. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.


D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

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Leining, Catherine



On the evening of June 10, 2022, Catherine Conroy Leining (68) of Durham, CT departed this earth, surrounded by loved ones, at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT. She succumbed to a devastating failure of the heart; her most endearing asset. With the Lord at her side, she began her journey to a bigger, brighter place. Catherine,

who was born to Raymond and Doris on February 19, 1954, in Middletown, CT, was a member of the National Honor Society at Middletown High School. She graduated in 1972 and accepted a position at Middlesex Mutual Assurance, where she spent a successful 37 years of continuous employment. In October of 1982, she married Irvin L. Leining Jr. and together, raised their daughter Bridget. Catherine, although often underestimated, was a stalwart in the eyes of those who loved her. Her unwavering selflessness, expeditious wit, and humble devotion to family and friends were tops among her many attributes. When she wasn't spending time at a family gathering or event, Catherine could be found enjoying an adventurous outing with her husband, where a favorite restaurant or destination was never out of reach. She was also an avid reader, often found entrenched in the pages of a novel or depiction of one of her favorite historical events. Never wasting a moment, she truly enjoyed her life. Catherine is preceded in death by her father, Raymond A. Conroy, her mother, Doris Monnes Conroy, and her brother Michael Conroy. She is survived by her husband Irvin L. Leining Jr. of Durham, CT; daughter Bridget (Matthew Dionne) Leining of Middletown, CT; brothers Joseph (Karen Sobieski) Conroy of Ellicott City, MD; Daniel (Diane) Conroy of Goode, VA; Raymond (Karen) Conroy of Colchester, CT; sister Elizabeth Conroy of Wethersfield, CT; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins, who she loved and cherished immensely. Calling hours will be held at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, CT, on Friday, June 17, between 5-7 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, June 18, at 10 AM at Notre Dame Church in Durham, CT, followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery. Formal attire is not required; casual dress is encouraged. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library www.imaginationlibrary.com. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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Thompson, Carly-Ann



On Friday June 10th, 2022, we said goodbye to a beautiful soul. Carly-Ann Thompson, 22, of Deep River, Connecticut was born on February 3rd, 2000 to her loving parents Danielle and Bill Thompson. In addition to her parents, she leaves behind a brother, Ethan Thompson. She also left behind her father's wife Annie Tysver Thompson and her grandparents, Terry & Rich Layden, Paul Robertson, Beverly Chapman. Carly-Ann was predeceased by her grandfather William Thompson. Carly leaves behind a large loving family including three aunts, Kelly, Krystle, and Wendy. Two uncles Paul and Wes and many cousins and friends, all of whom she loved with all her heart.

Carly has a very special bond with her younger cousins and always wanted to spend time with them and her family. She got great joy in playing sports with the kids, taking them out for ice cream, bike rides and most of all loved making them laugh. Carly was very passionate about all sports, especially basketball where she was a star player at Valley Regional and AAU. She was always determined to the best, so much so she would challenge her dad to play defense against her. Her mother and Grammy Terry could always be heard at every game as they were by far the loudest in the crowd. She also played lacrosse and was an avid runner. She loved watching the Celtics and UCONN woman's basketball with her brother, who is her best friend.

Carly embraced a silliness and joy that was incredibly contagious, it was impossible to keep a straight face as she's sending you one of her funny TikToks, Snap Chat videos, or a hilarious filtered selfie. Carly was a selfless and giving soul giving her time to missionary trips, feeding the homeless and even giving them her last dollar.

Despite all these amazing qualities Carly suffered greatly from an eating disorder, she was a warrior and never gave up. God had different plans and needed another angel.

Visitation will be Saturday June 18th from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM at the First Congregational Church of Deep River, 1 Church Street in Deep River with a service immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to The Project Heal Foundation. Please visit, theprojectheal.org

To share a memory of Carly-Ann or leave a condolence for her family please visit www.rwwfh.com Arrangements by the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home in Centerbrook.

"Eating disorder recovery is hard, getting treatment should not be".

We love and miss you Carly.

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Metzidakis, Jane B



Jane Bigelow Metzidakis, 77 of Niantic, CT passed from this world on June 12, 2022 with her loving husband George Metzidakis, by her side. She fought a long and heroic battle, with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Jane was born in Hartford, Connecticut on November 15, 1944 to Genevieve and Norman Bigelow. She spent her young life in Granby,

Graduating from Granby High School. Jane was preceded in death by her son Jeffrey Kloo, her parents and her brother Norman Bigelow Jr.

Jane was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister. She is survived by her husband, George Metzidakis, son Brian Kloo and wife Katarzyna, daughter Janice and husband John Stoppleworth and son Daniel Kloo, as well as three grandchildren Timothy Kloo, Hannah Kloo and Emilia Kloo and 2 great grandchildren Jeffrey and Ezelia. Her brother Eugene Bigelow and wife Andrea survive as well as her sister Grace Conover and husband Fred.

Jane was an outgoing, kind and generous soul. An avid gardener, she spent hours tending her flowers and vegetables. She was a passionate lover of nature, birds and all wildlife, as well as their dog Chester.

Jane retired from Chelsea Groton Savings Bank in Groton, CT in 2010. Jane and George loved to travel and discover new places and new adventures, making trips to Europe, South America and extensive trips in the United States and Canada.

She was always there to help when there was a need. She loved spending time in the company of her friends and neighbors. Her memory will be eternal in the hearts of her family and friends. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

A Memorial service in her honor will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

May she Rest In Peace

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

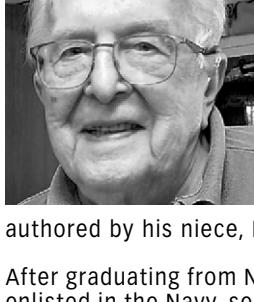
OBITUARIES

Doucette I, Paul Henry

Paul Henry Doucette I, 82, of Stafford Springs, CT, husband of the late Judith (Taylor) Doucette, passed away on Monday, June 13, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital. He was born in Manchester, CT, son of the late Clifford and Wilhelmina (Rettiger) Doucette. Paul was a veteran of the United States Army, and retired as a machinist. His hobbies included fishing, model trains, and collecting California raisins. He loved his country and family, traveling with his wife, and was a fan of the New York Yankees. A beloved father, Paul is survived by his three children, Joadi Rummel and her husband Timothy, Vicki Lee Gawronski, and Paul Henry Doucette II; three grandchildren, Shane Gawronski, Melissa Grehoski and her husband Kevin, and Savannah Rummel and Kyle Moreno; four great grandchildren, Josh, Skylar, Brooklyn, and Kyle, Jr.; four siblings, Virginia Hickton, Nadine Becker, Betty Ann Opelt, and Joseph Doucette and his wife Suzanne; several nieces and nephews; and his dog, Bunny. He was predeceased by two siblings, Dwight Doucette and Joyce Atwell. A calling hour will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 from 3:30-4:30 P.M. at Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., 51 East Main St., Stafford Springs, CT. Military Honors will take place at 4:30 P.M. following the visitation. Burial at the State of Connecticut Veterans Cemetery, Middletown, CT, will be held privately. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 280285, East Hartford, CT 06128. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com.

Introvigne

Funeral Home, Inc.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Janovicz, Anthony C.**

Anthony Janovicz, 99, passed away on June 8, 2022. Tony, Grandpa, Dziadzi was born on November 23, 1922 to Mariana (Borovski) and Andrzej Janovicz in Norwich, CT. Against the odds, he survived as an infant delivered at less than 2lbs. The story of his birth was portrayed in the historical novella, *Until the Robin Walks on Snow*, authored by his niece, Bernice (Janovicz) Rocque.

After graduating from Norwich Free Academy (1940) he enlisted in the Navy, serving in one of the earliest units of the SeaBees. In 1945, he married the love of his life, Albina Anthony. With the help of his brother, Mike, Tony built his home on Vergason Avenue. On the property, he started one of the first commercial Christmas tree farms in Connecticut.

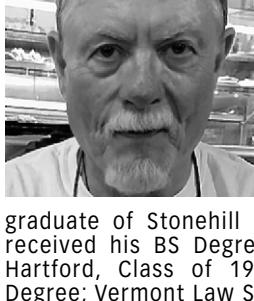
Without the benefit of a college engineering degree, he earned his license as Land Surveyor in 1961 and Professional Engineer in 1974 while working with the Connecticut DOT. He co-founded Towne Engineering with his nephew, Don Aubrey, and worked for the Town of Old Lyme after his first retirement. He enjoyed sailing, archery, cheering on the Sox and Huskies, beekeeping and gardening. He valued service including support of the Boy Scouts, regular blood donation, and driving fellow seniors to health appointments. He was a long-time member of Sacred Heart Church in Norwichtown. When he and Albina moved to White Oaks Retirement Living in Manchester CT (2013) he attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon.

Tony is survived by his sons Michael (Jody) of Venice FL and Indianapolis, Paul (Sharon) of Willington CT and daughter Monica (Scott) Powers of Conway SC, and his little sister, Veronica Aubrey of Norwich CT. He was Grandpa to eight grandchildren: Chrissy, Stephanie, Andrew, Amy, Anna, Dan, Sarah and Drew; Dziadzi to 20-great grandchildren with 2 great-great grandchildren on the way.

He was predeceased in 2016 by his wife whom he joins in eternal rest. He said many times how he looked forward to being together again with his beloved Albina.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday July 20 at St John's Episcopal Church, Vernon CT at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to St. John's Episcopal Church, 523 Hartford Turnpike for outreach efforts confronting food insecurity.

For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Sweeney, Michael P.**

Michael Patrick Sweeney, CPA, 73, of Simsbury, beloved husband of Debra (Covey) Sweeney, died Thursday, June 9, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. He was born October 18, 1948 in Manchester, son of the late Edward Joseph and Elise Ruth (Klein) Sweeney and had lived in Ellington prior to moving to Simsbury 30 years ago. Michael was a graduate of Stonehill College, Class of 1970, having received his BS Degree in Accounting; University of Hartford, Class of 1974, having received his MBA Degree; Vermont Law School, Class of 1980, having received his JD Degree and received his Masters in Taxation from Boston University. Michael worked as a Senior Manager for Deloitte & Touche and then Reynolds and Jacobs and was a self-employed CPA in Simsbury for many years. He was an avid tennis player, loved to travel, read, and watch old movies as well as ride his recumbent bike with his dear friends at Ti Trikes. He was an Officer & Board member & one of the founders of the Warrior Riders, a 501-c-3 non-profit providing adaptive bikes for injured veterans and first responders.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by his children, Abigail M. Sweeney and partner Matthew Harrington of Brighton, MA and Jeremy M. Sweeney and partner Miche Morejam of San Francisco, CA; his brothers, Edward Sweeney and wife Susan of Farmington and Craig Sweeney, MD and wife Laura of Storrs; his nieces, Tara Sweeney of Farmington and Mary Catherine Almeida and husband Kainoa of Hawaii; his nephews, Conor Sweeney and wife Anya of Portland, OR and James Sweeney of Storrs, CT and his best buddies Fergus and Liam. A celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 18th at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow Street in Simsbury. Burial will follow in Simsbury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Warrior Riders, Inc., 40 River Road, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063 or the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. Please visit Michael's Book of Memories at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Griffith, Dorothy**

Dorothy "Dottie" Griffith, strong, steadfast, resilient and very loving woman, died at the age of 87 on June 10, 2022. She was surrounded by loved ones, in peace and comfort during her final days, at the home she built with her husband in 1971. Dottie bravely faced 26 years of surgeries, treatments, and complications from a vast array of primary cancers and did so with true grit! She showed outstanding grace and gratitude throughout her dying process. This amazing and unique woman has at last achieved eternal peace.

She enjoyed the town of Berlin, CT as a life-long resident and graduate of Berlin High School, where her yearbook caption read "swell as she is tall." Always hard working in a variety of positions, she spent the second half of her career as a medical secretary in New Britain.

Dottie absolutely loved the beach and her summer home and summer friends in Rhode Island. She had a keen eye for spotting sea glass during her long walks along the shore. She was an outstanding crafter who pursued many different mediums, becoming well known in the Connecticut craft fair circuit for her perfect counted cross stitch creations. She was proud to knit over 150 scarves for the Seamen's Church Institute. Dottie was a devoted fan of UConn Women's Basketball, UConn Men's Basketball, the New York Mets, and the New York Giants and never missed an opportunity to watch their games. She enjoyed travel with Bob in retirement, visiting 10 national parks, Alaska, Canada, Iceland, France, Germany and Italy.

She hosted memorable Christmas dinners, family parties, and backyard barbeques where all felt welcomed and loved. Her spaghetti sauce, barbequed hamburg, and sweetheart salads are legendary.

Dottie leaves behind her devoted husband Robert "Bob" Griffith, one dear daughter Sharon Saunders, son-in-law John Saunders, and two extra-special granddaughters, Erin Kalla and Shelby Saunders, as well as an extended loving family on both sides, including sister Karen Anderson, brother Joseph Crowell and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. Dottie loved to give and receive hugs, and by sharing hugs with those around you, you can honor her memory. Dottie is grateful to the St. Gabriel's Church family who gave her a sanctuary of peace from childhood to her dying days. She requests any donations on her behalf be made to St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 68 Main Street, East Berlin, CT 06023, where a memorial service for her will be held on Saturday, June 18 at 11 a.m.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Morris, Tom R.**

Tom R. Morris, 95, of Colebrook Village of Hebron, and formerly of Wayne, NJ, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2022 at Chestelm Health and Rehab Center in Moodus where he was recuperating from surgery. Born on August 15, 1926 in Indianapolis, IN, Tom was the son of the late Tom and Emma (Simmler) Morris. He grew up in New Jersey and graduated Central High School

at the age of 16. He then began working for the US Post Office. In 1944 Tom enlisted with the US Navy, serving during WWII and stationed in Hawaii. He received both the American Theatre Medal and Asiatic Pacific Medal. Tom married his beloved wife, Elaine Van Valkenburgh in April 1951. The couple settled in Wayne, NJ where they made their home and raised their family. Elaine predeceased Tom in 1995. An adventurous couple, they traveled extensively, often with brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Minnie, and enjoyed cruising, with Tom as a widower in later years joining cousin Dot and friends. After a long career as a letter carrier for the US Postal Service, Tom retired but worked as a travel agent and for a local florist. He was a good provider for his family, and often held two or more jobs. Always the life of the party, he loved watching baseball (GO Mets!), tennis, and in his younger years, watching and attending horse races with Elaine. He will be sadly missed by many who knew him but most especially by his daughter, Carol and her husband, David Scata of Lebanon, his son, Tom H. Morris and his partner, Angela Lundgren of NJ; grandchildren, Joel and his wife Kim Scata, Jared and his wife, Laura Scata; great grandchildren, Harper and Emerson Scata; his first cousin, Dorothy Harrison, and numerous extended family members and friends. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, June 16th from 4 - 5:30 pm at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral service will follow immediately at 5:30 PM at the funeral home, followed by military honors. He will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife, Elaine with a graveside funeral service on Friday, June 17th at 11:00 am, at the Laurel Grove Memorial Park in Totowa, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, www.dav.org or to the United Methodist Church of Wayne, NJ, 99 Parish Dr., Wayne, NJ 07470. For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com)

Aurora McCarthy

Funeral Home, Inc.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Mooney, Kevin Charles**

Kevin Charles Mooney, 64, of Enfield, entered into Eternal Rest on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. Son of the late Kevin and Betty (Shanahan) Mooney, he was born on May 6, 1958. Kevin was a resident of Enfield for 30+ years after meeting and marrying his late wife, Pamela, who predeceased him in 2019. Kevin is survived by his daughter, Kelly Daddario and her husband, John of Stafford; his grandchildren, Easton and Kace Daddario; and his sisters, Kathy Paquette and her husband Ray of Windsor, and Mary Lou Prange and her husband John of Ellington. Calling hours will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd. Enfield, CT 06082 from 12:30-2pm followed by a funeral home service at 2pm. Burial will be held privately and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Kids Fishing Foundation, 31258 600th St., Millville, MN 55957 in honor of Kevin's passion for bass fishing. For online condolences please visit www.leetestevens.com

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com
to share memories of loved ones.

Foster, Walzo L.

Walzo L. Foster, 72, of Windsor, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 29, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital. Born in Mile Gully, Manchester, Jamaica on May 1, 1950, son of the late Walter James and Imogene (Denton) Foster, he was raised in Jamaica and migrated to the United States in 1971. Shortly after arriving in the United States, Walzo enlisted in the

U.S. Navy and served until his honorable discharge in 1978. Walzo worked as a quality engineer for Colt Firearms in West Hartford and later at Cuno in Enfield where he stayed until his retirement in 2017. He leaves to mourn his passing, eight children, Natalie Foster-Hall and her husband Milton of Windsor, Paula Foster of East Hartford, Cheryl Foster-Dennis and her husband Omar of Sacramento, CA, Kirk Foster of Hartford, Netesha Chiarelli and her husband Bryan of Tempe, AZ, Byron Foster of Hartford, Tyshaun Foster of Windsor, and Jahmal Foster of Windsor; four adopted children, Corey Mann of Hartford, Garfield Cameron of Mount Vernon, NY, Wade Watkin of Tempe, AZ, and Tyra Perry of Danbury; 19 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. His family will receive friends on Friday, July 17, 4-5 p.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 5 p.m., at the Caron Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Burial will be in Manchester, Jamaica on Saturday, July 16th. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 4217 Park Place Court, Glen Allen, VA 23060 or by visiting www.heart.org. For online condolences please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com).

CARMON
Community Funeral HomesPlease sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Soifer, Roberta (Trauman)**

The family mourns the loss of Roberta T. Soifer of Windsor, formally of Newington, who died Saturday, June 11, 2022. She was predeceased by her husband, David Soifer and later by her companion, Howard Most. Born in Bronx, NY, she was the daughter of the late Max Trauman and Leona Rosenthal. She leaves her two children Laura Lerner and her husband Howard of Hopkinton, MA and Peter Soifer and his wife Shona of Canton, CT. She was the proud grandmother of David Lerner, Erica Lerner, Derek Soifer and Ryan Soifer. She was a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and had a brief career as a history teacher prior to raising her family. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the donor's choice. Private services will be held.

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Hartford Courant

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Fast food fight finally comes to an end

After years of litigation, Hartford commits to purchase of West End lot in a win for neighbors against proposed McDonald's

By Edmund H. Mahony

Hartford Courant

The Hartford Common Council has approved the city's purchase of a vacant lot on Farmington Avenue in the West End, settling a decade-long legal fight that pitted a private developer's plan for a fast food restaurant against the neighborhood's goal of creating a walkable, Farmington Avenue streetscape.

After years of litigating a half dozen state and federal suits, the council voted to pay developer Eliot B. Gersten \$1.8 million for the empty, one-third acre lot at Farmington and Girard Avenues where Gersten and partner Phil Schonberger wanted to build a McDonald's restaurant with a drive-through

window. Schonberger died in 2015 before the halfway point in the fast food fight.

Gersten has agreed to drop his plan for a McDonald's, withdraw his suits, hand the land to the city and take the money as compensation for millions in lost income and legal fees.

The city will lay out a package of government financial incentives in an effort to find a developer willing to put up a mixed-use retail and apartment building on the site.

Neighbors north of Farmington Avenue have been adamant in their opposition to a fast food drive-through, which they claim will scatter litter, increase vehicle traffic and hurt efforts to make the important east-west commercial corridor more pedestrian friendly.

For decades, the West End has united behind a succession of development plans to turn the avenue into a leafy place of apartments, small businesses, restaurants and lulled traffic.

Bronin and city attorney Howard Rifkin presented the Court of Common Council with details of the settlement during an closed-door executive session Monday night.

The politically influential occupants of the well-kept homes north of Farmington Avenue have been adamant in their opposition to a fast food drive-through, which they claim will scatter litter, increase vehicle traffic, hurt efforts to make the important east-west commercial corridor more pedestrian friendly and lower property values. For

decades, the West End has united behind a succession of development plans to turn the avenue into a leafy place of apartments, small businesses, restaurants and lulled traffic.

"Like all of our major commercial corridors that run through our neighborhoods, we want Farmington Avenue to be a walkable, connected, vibrant corridor with a good mix of residential and retail," Bronin has said.

A food truck park with a pergola, a stage and seating for dozens of people, is being built on a lot at 510 Farmington Ave. by Quan and Rebeca Quach, who live in the neighborhood. Quan Quach has said up to four trucks at a time will be scheduled in a rotation similar to the setup at GastroPark, the food truck park in West Hartford that opened in 2020.

Gov. touts expansion of 'red flag' gun law

State was first in the nation to adopt legislation in 1999

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

WINDSOR — As federal lawmakers weigh red flag rules that allow a person's guns to be temporarily seized, Gov. Ned Lamont touted Connecticut's law, which was adopted in 1999 and expanded June 1.

At a press conference outside the Windsor Police Department with police and gun safety advocates, Windsor police Chief Donald Melanson said the law has been a great tool.

"This is an important tool for law enforcement — to be able to take guns away from those that have shown that they shouldn't be having guns, especially during times of crisis, domestic violence, those types of things," Melanson said.

The law, which allows firearms to be taken from troubled gun owners who are suicidal or in danger of hurting others, was expanded recently to allow family members and medical professionals to raise a "red flag" that would provide evidence to a Superior Court judge to issue a risk protection order and seize firearms. The expansion now includes concerns raised by household members and



Lamont



Dave Knighton, left, and Dan Kish of the Neighborhood Ambassador Program clean up Albany Avenue on Tuesday. TED GLANZER/HARTFORD COURANT

Turn to Red flag, Page 3

DEEP: Bear euthanized after string of break-ins

Public safety issue cited as attempts at capture failed

By Mike Mavredakis

Hartford Courant

A bear was euthanized and one of its cubs died during relocation after break-ins at residences in Canton on Monday, according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The bear was euthanized by Environmental Conservation Police after multiple unsuccessful attempts to "aversively condition" the animal, DEEP spokesman Will Healey said in a statement.

DEEP received "numerous" reports of a bear with four cubs attempting to break into homes, sometimes with occupants inside, in recent weeks, Healey said. On Monday, they received two reports at different residences of a bear attempting to break into homes.

The first attempted break-in happened at a home on North Mountain Road. Homeowners reported that a bear had attempted to enter the home through the front door and was not deterred by a barking dog or attempts from the homeowner to ring the doorbell. It then tried to break into the home through a window before retreating. It was gone before police arrived, Healey said.

Police received another call a few hours later at a home on East Hill Road, a short distance from the first. The homeowner had come home to find a bear had broken in

Beautification program offers a second chance

Former inmates cleaning up Hartford as Neighborhood Ambassadors

By Ted Glanzer | Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — On a sun-splashed morning on Albany Avenue, 30-year-old Ed Worster, clad in a bright yellow worker's vest and a New York Yankees hat, happily used a trash picker to pluck cigarette butts and other trash off the road and sidewalk in front of a branch of the Hartford Public Library.

In the past decade, Worster has spent a total of seven years in prison, primarily for larcenies and burglaries.

"I look at myself, where I was five years ago, 10 years ago, and now, I would not honestly recognize the boy I used to be," Worster said.

Jobless and homeless, Worster found employment with

the recently launched Neighborhood Ambassador Program, a neighborhood beautification initiative that provides part-time employment to former inmates.

Mayor Luke Bronin, along with city councilors Marilyn Rossotti and Nick Lebron, officially debuted the program in front of the library branch on Albany Avenue on Tuesday.

"This Neighborhood Ambassador Program is a second-chance hiring program," Bronin said. "This is meant to create part-time jobs for those who come back to our community after serving some time and who want to contribute to their community and build opportunity."

Turn to Program, Page 2

"This program is great because it gives guys like myself an opportunity to get some work ethic... Plus, they see me as one of them. I'm one of them. So now they see change is possible."

— Dave Knighton, supervisor from Open Hearth who served 18 years in prison and now oversees the ambassadors

In Connecticut, demand for nurses urgent

Burnout, delays in training during the pandemic exacerbated prolonged shortage — and colleges, universities can't keep up

By Erica E. Phillips

CT Mirror

This year's nursing school graduates matriculated before the pandemic took hold, and over the course of their studies, they've seen the profession go through an upheaval.

Waves of COVID-19 delayed students' clinical rotations at patient care facilities. When they were allowed back into hospitals, clinics and long-term care facilities, the work was more intense than many had expected.

"I was shocked," said Jillian Levesque, one of the University of Connecticut School of Nursing's five valedictorians from the class of 2022. "I remember thinking, 'Oh, I've got time to get better at my vital signs,' and then it was the second day and I was giving medication," she said. "There was no getting better and practicing your vital signs. It was the real world because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

A prolonged shortage of nurses across

the state became more acute during the pandemic. And the graduating class of 2022 — roughly 2,000 in number statewide — won't be able to fill those yawning gaps in the workforce.

Over the last two years, mid-career and older nurses experienced burnout, left emergency departments and intensive care units for less stressful positions or retired early. Many younger nurses opted for lucrative traveling assignments. Nurses periodically fell ill with COVID and had to stay home, placing further stress on health care facilities.

The health care field accounts for 16% of the state's total workforce, and nurses and certified nursing assistants are in high demand. In late 2020, the Governor's Workforce Council estimated the state's registered nurse workforce was roughly 50,000, more than half of whom were over the age of 50. There were "significant shortages" in health care workers, the council reported, estimating an annual need of 3,000 new

RNs and 2,500 openings for certified nursing assistants.

It's been nearly two years since that report. At the time, deaths from COVID-19 in the United States had just passed 200,000. Today, that number is over 1 million. Weeks ago, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory about health care worker burnout, warning that "the public's ability to get routine preventive care, emergency care, and medical procedures" is at risk.

"Dyed-in-the-wool, hardcore, ED, ICU nurses, who've been that forever — COVID has just burned them out," said Beth Beckman, chief nursing officer at Yale New Haven Health. "These nurses who would have never dreamed of leaving their practice, because that's what they do and who they are, are now moving to ambulatory settings or ... areas where they can work 9 to 5 and they can create physical and emotional respite for themselves."

Those nurses have left vacancies in critical areas.

"We've got to do something to increase the pipeline," Beckman said.

Turn to Nurses, Page 2

Turn to Bear, Page 2

Man, 64, arrested on sex assault charges

By Mike Mavredakis

Hartford Courant

Newington police arrested a 64-year-old man Tuesday in connection to a reported sexual assault at a Saver's on the Berlin Turnpike in May.

Anthony Anselmo, of Terryville, was arrested and charged with third-degree sexual assault, risk of injury to a child and breach of peace. He turned himself into police Tuesday after a warrant seeking his arrest was signed Monday.

On May 14 a witness contacted police a little before 5:30 p.m., reporting that a male inappropriately touched the victim, identified as a 13-year-old female, shopping in the store on the Berlin Turnpike with her mother. Officers responded to the scene, but the suspect fled prior to their arrival, police said.

A police investigation determined that an older white male was observed entering the store approximately two hours prior to the incident. A witness told police they saw the suspect following a mother and her 13-year-old daughter around a store.

The witness then told police she saw the girl walk down an aisle away from her mother and the suspect followed her. The witness told police there was a "commotion" and she approached the girl, who said the man "touched her."

The witness reported it to the girl's mother, who followed the man out into the parking lot. The man fled southbound on the Berlin Turnpike on a black Harley motorcycle, according to police.

Police said they identified the suspect as Anselmo, who has pending cases in Danbury and Hartford courts for similar incidents.

Anselmo was released on a \$150,000 court-set surety bond and is scheduled to appear in New Britain Superior Court on June 27.

Southington police investigating I-84 stabbing

By Mike Mavredakis

Hartford Courant

Southington police are investigating a report of a stabbing on Interstate 84 early Sunday morning.

Southington officers and the Connecticut State Police interviewed the victim, who was being treated at an area hospital. The victim initially provided "conflicting information" on where the

stabbing occurred, police said, reported it happening in Southington, Plainville and I-84.

In a later statement, the victim told state police that after leaving a location in Southington, he got on I-84 East where a gold-colored Toyota Prius came up speeding behind him coming close to his rear bumper, speeding up and slowing down as the driver of the vehicle flicked the high beams on and off.

The victim told police he felt a bump on the rear of his vehicle, put his hazards on and pulled to the shoulder of the highway. The victim told police the Toyota Prius also pulled over. The victim told police that the driver of the Prius came up to him and stabbed him in his left side before quickly returning to his vehicle and driving off east on I-84, police said.

The victim then told police he returned to his car and called 911

before taking Exit 32 off I-84 to wait for the police to arrive, police said.

The victim described the suspect as a white male in his 30s wearing a camouflage ball cap, camouflage hooded sweatshirt, and blue jeans, according to police.

The victim remains hospitalized and the case remains open, police said. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Lopa at 860-378-1644.

Program

from Page 1

"From our perspective, this is a win/win. We create a chance to get a part-time job, to make a new life, make a difference in their city and at the same time we make sure our beautiful avenues are well-cared for, loved and there is a good, constant presence among them."

"The Neighborhood Ambassadors program is transformative because it will provide employment opportunities to a community that is traditionally forgotten and/or discarded," Rossetti, who is also president of The Open Hearth Association, said in a statement. "Consistent employment and income is also key in housing security. These men and women can be productive members of our city while building the foundations necessary to live sustainable and healthy lives. I am proud to be part of this effort and am committed to seeing this program grow year after year."

The work includes litter and weed removal, cleaning up high-traffic areas, graffiti identification and other projects in 12 of the city's commercial corridors.

Worster earns \$16 an hour working five-hour shifts, five days a week, providing a major source of pride to someone who a short while ago was housing insecure.

"It is the most wholesome and most amazing feeling in the world," Worster said. "I have a 7-year-old son myself, and when we walk down the street to get rid of the drug paraphernalia and the trash and the garbage, it's really an amaz-



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, flanked by city councilors Marilyn Rossetti and Nick Lebron, speaks about the city's Neighborhood Ambassador Program on Tuesday at the Albany Avenue library. **TED GLANZER/HARTFORD COURANT**

ing feeling to clean up the streets, to know our kids, our kids' friends have a safe, stable place to play."

So far there is a crew of nine ambassadors, Bronin said, with an intention of quickly expanding the program, which is funded through money from the American Rescue Plan as well as the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

The Open Hearth, Open Hearth Works and the Hartford Reentry Welcome Center— all programs that help the homeless and/or help integrate former inmates into the community — have partnered with the city to run the program.

The ambassadors clean up the following corridors:

■ Blue Hills Avenue, between Manchester Street to Brookline Avenue

■ Albany Avenue, Main Street to Scarborough

■ Main Street, High Street to Sunset Street

■ Asylum Avenue, Garden Street to Woodland Street

■ Farmington Avenue, Garden Street to Prospect Avenue

■ Capitol Avenue, Broad to Prospect

■ Park Street, Park Terrace to Prospect

■ New Britain Avenue, Washington Street to Grant Street

■ Maple Avenue, Franklin Avenue to Fairfield Avenue

■ Franklin Avenue, Maple Avenue to Victoria Road

■ Wethersfield Avenue, Main Street to Victoria Road

■ Sisson Avenue

Dave Knighton, a supervisor

from Open Hearth who oversees the ambassadors, said recently that released workers can look to him to see that there is a different path than incarceration. Knighton said that he served 18 years in prison and was released 18 years ago.

"This program is great because it gives guys like myself an opportunity to get some work ethic that never had that work ethic," he said. "Plus, they see me as one of them. I'm one of them. So now they see change is possible."

There is a period of adjustment, Knighton said.

"At the beginning it started off a little rough, because you've got guys not used to doing this type of work who sold drugs or looked for fast money," Knighton said. "Now they come down here, they're picking up trash. And some of them are like, it's beneath them from where they came from. But in the long run, they've got people walking up to them saying, 'Thank you,' they appreciate the job they're doing. That makes you feel good you're doing something. You don't get that [in the streets]. But they get that out here."

Worster, for his part, said he's looking ahead to the future.

"The biggest part I'm looking forward to right now is seeing not only what this program can do for the community, but seeing how big it can grow ... getting other people involved," he said. "I have more than hope. I have a determined goal in mind and it's going to become a reality."

Ted Glanzer can be reached at tglanzer@courant.com.

Nurses

from Page 1

77% of qualified applicants turned away: As it stands, that "pipeline" for Connecticut nurses is too narrow.

Sherri Dayton, a registered nurse and health care division leader within the AFT union, said with experienced nurses choosing traveling gigs, telemedicine or the steady schedule of a doctor's office or surgery center, acute care facilities have to recruit primarily among recent graduates.

"It's really just brand new nurse residents coming out of school that are applying," she said.

And there aren't enough of them.

That's not for a lack of interest. Colleges and universities in the state lack the capacity to meet both the industry's workforce needs and students' level of interest.

Last year, 13,175 applicants qualified to attend RN programs in Connecticut, but there was only room for 2,992. Of those accepted, 2,781 enrolled.

Marcia Proto, executive director of the Connecticut Center for Nursing Workforce, said another shortage is exacerbating the nurse shortage: a lack of instructors.

"Faculty is paramount, because if we don't have people to teach, it doesn't matter how many people we have wanting to go to school," she said.

Earlier this year, CCNW surveyed the state's nursing schools and found they'd need more than 300 additional faculty and staff statewide in order to expand capacity by 20% within three years. And that was only for undergraduate pre-licensure RN programs.

"The shortage is the worst I have seen in over 19 years that I have been working in health care in Connecticut," she said.

Still, for nurses who might be interested in the transition to teaching, the decision often doesn't make sense financially, Dayton said.

"You go to school to get your master's in nursing education, and then you make pretty much what you'd make as an acute care nurse in the hospital — but now you have \$40,000 in debt," she said. "Who

wants to do that?"

Even if Connecticut schools had the faculty and resources to add seats in their RN and Licensed Practical Nurse programs, there would still be hundreds of graduates each year who take jobs in other states.

"Everyone is going so many different places," UConn graduate Levesque said, listing California, Florida and North Carolina among her classmates' destinations.

Levesque grew up in Massachusetts and she said she's hoping to work in Boston.

"I've always felt sort of this desire to go back there, because that's where my family is, and that's where most of my life has been," she said.

Stabilizing the workforce: State lawmakers took various steps to shore up the state's health care workforce during this year's legislative session. The annual budget bill included funding for tuition repayment and housing for health care workers, as well as bonus "premium pay" for those who worked through the height of the pandemic.

New legislation expanding mental health services is expected to create more opportunities for nurses in those fields. The mental health bills also expanded loan repayment for those workers.

And Senate Bill 251, signed into law May 22, calls for the Office of Workforce Strategy to expand health care academic programs, develop distance learning, on-the-job and other health care education opportunities for people looking to change careers, and to recruit and retain people within underserved populations for health care careers. A plan for that program is due Jan. 1, 2024.

"A lot of what we tried to accomplish was to try to deal with a need that is immediate and urgent but also recognizing that some of these things can't be fixed overnight," said Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport, co-chair of the Public Health Committee.

Steinberg said the work isn't done.

"We didn't get everything we asked for," he said, "and we also want to prove out some programs — pilots or experiments that have been successful on a local level.

... Those are the kinds of things we hope to revisit in the coming years."

Some of the state's health care systems are funding their own programs to develop the future workforce. Yale New Haven Health plans to spend more than \$7 million over the next four years to enhance programs at Fairfield University, Gateway Community College, Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University, with the goal of educating more than 500 additional new nurses.

Kimberlee Richard, vice president of patient care services at Griffin Health, said Griffin is partnering with high schools in the Naugatuck Valley to offer "dual curriculum" training — in classroom and clinical settings — so students can begin working in various certified assistant roles upon graduating from high school.

Still, as the state's population ages and more health care workers are expected to retire, they'll join the ranks of other retirees who need medical care, which could further compound the state's health care workforce needs.

Recruiting and training the next generation of nurses and health care workers is just one part of the solution, industry leaders say. The other part is preventing burnout among established people in the field.

Stephanie McGuire, who leads government relations for the Connecticut Nurses Association, said much of the organization's focus during this year's legislative session was on "stabilizing the workforce."

That means making sure nurses find the career rewarding and valuable, especially after what they've been through the last two years, she said.

"It's a lot of rebuilding," McGuire said. Just as the pandemic has driven other professions to envision new models for work, nursing professionals are "trying to recreate the new norm," she said. CNA has held forums and online hearings to try to connect with newer nurses and gather ideas to avoid burnout. "I think it's incumbent upon us to maintain what we've learned over this time," McGuire said.

The pipeline, a lifeline: This past year, UConn rising junior Zaheer Turtem served as a "floor mentor" in UConn's Nursing Learning Community, helping incoming freshmen make friends, settle in and get comfortable with the rigorous academic experience.

That camaraderie is important. Often asked by non-nursing students why they'd pursue such a stressful — often messy — profession, Turtem and his classmates have ready responses.

"It's about helping people," Turtem said. "It's about understanding your privilege as a guide for patients throughout their health care journey."

Turtem started out pre-med at UConn but switched to nursing. The urgency of the pandemic made him eager to help.

"The way I saw it, nursing school was a way to fast-track getting into the field, instead of waiting on medical school to happen," he said.

Many young people in Connecticut have felt a similar calling over the last two years. This fall, UConn's nursing school is set to welcome its largest-ever incoming class.

Since the start of the pandemic, undergraduate applications to UConn are up 25%.

Connecticut State Universities has expanded from 61 graduates of its nursing bachelor's programs in 2010-11 to nearly 340 last year. Connecticut State Community Colleges train roughly 1,600 more students in nursing and patient care-related fields each year.

And Sacred Heart University in Fairfield just awarded degrees to its first cohort of graduates from an accelerated 15-month nursing bachelor's program, available to students who already have a bachelor's degree in another discipline.

Joan Palladino, nursing professor and interim dean of the School of Professional Studies at Western Connecticut State University, said the pandemic's effects on the profession aren't all negative. Observing students in patient-care settings, "the level of enthusiasm was tremendous," she said.

"We see all the challenges with nursing over the last few years, and I'm sure in some ways it turned some people away," Palladino said. "I think it brought some other people in."

POLICE BRIEFS

HARTFORD

Man injured in Orange St. shooting

A man was shot on Orange Street in Hartford early Tuesday morning, according to the Hartford Police Department.

Police were called to the area of 31 Orange Street just after 1:30 a.m. Tuesday on a ShotSpotter activation, Lieutenant Aaron Boisvert said. Police located the victim, a male in his 40s, who was suffering from gunshot wounds.

The man was "alert and conscious" while on the scene and was taken to a hospital for treatment, police said. His injuries are believed to be non-life-threatening.

The shooting remains under investigation and anyone with information is asked to call the HPD tip line at 860-722-8477.

— Mike Mavredakis

WALLINGFORD

Arrest in veterans' memorial vandalism

Wallingford police made an arrest in connection to the recent vandalism of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Dutton Park on Monday.

Police arrested Maxx Frisco, 29, a Wallingford resident. He turned himself in Monday afternoon after a warrant was signed, according to Sergeant Stephen Jaques.

Frisco was charged with two counts of first-degree criminal mischief. He was released on a \$5,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on June 27.

Police investigated two vandals of the structure on June 8 and 9, and identified Frisco as the suspect. Police said on both occasions, "derogatory/obscene images and words were spray-painted on the monument."

Police had offered a reward of \$1,000 to anyone with information that would lead to an arrest.

— Mike Mavredakis

Bear

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through a window and ransacked the kitchen, the release said. While investigating, police found a bear with food items from the home

CONNECTICUT

Bloomfield OKs Juneteenth, Pride flags

Each will be raised 7 days this month; town policy may be revised

By Deidre Montague

Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — The town of Bloomfield will raise both the Juneteenth and Pride flag for seven consecutive days each this month, the council decided Monday. The town will also reconsider its current flag policy, looking at how flags flown on town property will be chosen and who will purchase them.

The council voted to send the flag policy back for revision. Issues the council is looking to revise include the number of votes needed by the council to approve a commemorative or organizational flag raising on municipal property, whether there will be

an annual formal flag request form that organizations and groups must fill out and whether these flags be purchased by the town or continue their current requirement of having the flags donated by groups requesting the flag.

Although there was a question about whether to keep the current seven consecutive days of a commemorative or organizational flag being raised, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown suggested that the seven consecutive days remain in order for all those organizations can feel seen or celebrated.

"I would respectfully suggest that we continue with the seven consecutive days. I do also agree that if we're going to celebrate it, that it should be an annual thing unless something egregious happens where laws change or something like that, instead of having a group come back to the

council," she said. "Pride is every June, Juneteenth is every June, Caribbean Month is every June, we celebrate Barbados because they reached their anniversary, but I think for us to say that you have to come back every year and make an application, that could also send a bad message to the organizations."

Councilor Shamar Mahon disagreed.

"Even if they don't submit that form, we (town councilors) are the representatives for all groups in this community, for the entire community. I would say it should even be our responsibility then to bring this to the table each year to signify our support with the vote each year," Mahon said.

The council voted unanimously on both the Pride and Juneteenth flags. DeBeatham-Brown raised concerns about the timing of each flag raising since June is half over and Town Manager Stanley D.

Hawthorne assured that the flags would be flown with equity in mind.

"I think with this being referred to (the) administration, we can certainly address it for the future. In the meantime, the town council approved these (flags) this evening, we will find a way to make it work and (have) those flags to coexist or whatever we need to do," he said.

Councilor Kenneth McClary said the flags are important for letting community members know that they matter.

"As long as we show the public the symbolism of both flags going up and that they matter and their voices matter, I think that is more important than whether it happens prior to the holiday or after the holiday. As long as we get (the flags) up, it shows that we're recognizing members of the community that see value in the flag going up."

Holiday a chance to celebrate, educate

Bloomfield, Windsor partner for Juneteenth parade, two-day event

By Deidre Montague

Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — The towns of Bloomfield and Windsor, in collaboration with the Blue Hills Fire Department, will host the area's first Juneteenth parade, along with a two-day celebration this weekend.

The parade Saturday will step off at 11 a.m. at the First Cathedral Church parking lot, on 1151 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield and proceeds to The Blue Hills Fire Station. Live entertainment and free burgers and hot dogs will follow the parade.

On Sunday, there will be a community cookout from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Blue Hills Fire Department. Speakers will include interim Bloomfield High School Principal Jesse White, Abdul-Rahmaan I. Muhammad of My People's Clinical Services and storytellers, along with meditation from the Black Ministerial Alliance, and food, live entertainment, music, and children's activities.

Juneteenth marks the day enslaved people in Texas learned of their emancipation in 1865. Interest in the holiday intensified after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police and the racial reckoning that followed. Communities in Connecticut increasingly began organizing celebrations to recognize Juneteenth but it took until this year for official recognition of the holiday in Hartford.

Mayor Danielle Wong said that the town is excited to take the lead in the Greater Hartford area by having its first Juneteenth parade to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans.

"By commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans, we can continue to address our country's long history of racism and prejudice and the harm it has had on generations," Wong said. "My hope is to continue to make strides right here in Bloomfield by addressing our own inequities. Juneteenth must be amplified throughout our American history and our culture. We can start right here, locally, by learning and growing as a community."

Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown remembers when the town was excited about trying to get Juneteenth recognized as a holiday on a local level.

"Being here now, seeing that it's a state holiday and a federal holiday, I am beside myself. For Juneteenth last year, (the town) was definitely a trailblazer because we celebrated Juneteenth with the unveiling of the MLK mural at 330 Park Avenue," DeBeatham-Brown said.

Since 62% of Bloomfield's residents are people of color, DeBeatham-Brown said that it's important for the council to do something to honor the day.

"It was really important for us to do something here and to do something big," she said.

The Blue Hills Fire District offered to host and the town of Windsor to partner in the event, which DeBeatham-Brown said she hopes will continue to build on the excitement of last year, when the town celebrated with a West Indian American mayor and the first Black Disney princess, Bloomfield native Anika Noni Rose.

This year's event will be celebratory but also include a critical educational piece, she said.

"We're going to talk about the history (of Juneteenth). We're going to talk about where we are now and...about where we go as a people, because we don't just want it to be a time of celebration," DeBeatham-Brown said. "We need for it to (also) be a time of education, so that we can know where we're coming from (and) ... have a strong footing where we're going."

Councilor Kenneth McClary said that he hopes residents who attend the events will walk away with the understanding of the history of Juneteenth and how it impacts today's struggles for social justice.

"Juneteenth is every day, so we should celebrate it every day. I hope that they will walk away with the awareness of what Juneteenth does, what it stands for, and they live that in their everyday life," he said.

Councilor Rickford Kirton said he hopes residents will take the time to reflect on the long struggle for equal rights.

"I would encourage our residents in the town of Bloomfield to reflect, learn and educate themselves, gaining a greater understanding of our pasts and the struggle of Black Americans."

Hartford Library wants music fans to check out The Beat

New archive featuring local artists is curated by professionals and can be streamed for free online

By Christopher Arnott

Hartford Courant

Hartford Public Library has created The Beat, a new archive of local music, curated by professionals, that can be played online by anyone with an internet connection. People with Hartford library cards can download the albums.

The collection is being built gradually. Only a handful of albums have been uploaded to the new thebeat hartford.co site launched by the library this week. Twice a year, 20 more albums will be added during the winter/spring and summer/fall seasons.

Nygel White, the library's program production and engagement coordinator, helped design the site in conjunction with Rabble MUSICat, a Wisconsin-based software development company that specializes in new programs and formats for libraries.

The inaugural albums are:

■ "Poetic" by jazz drummer Jonathan Barber.
■ "City Lights" by Black Phonze, who is currently based in New York state but grew up in Hartford.
■ "Afro Algonquin" by the indigenous jazz/folk artist Lee Mixashawn Rozie.
■ "Lavender" by hip-hop/jazz poet Ghazi Omair.

■ And a compilation of tracks from the largely instrumental hip-hop ensemble The Lost Tribe which includes some live performances done in Bushnell Park.

That initial grouping is heavy on hip-hop and jazz, but White says The Beat is "open to any Hartford music. We've already had submissions of dancehall, R&B and folk."

Submissions are being sought to complete the first batch of 20 albums. The submission deadline for this initial period is July 5. The curators will take a couple of weeks to make selections, and the albums will be uploaded to the site by the end of July.

Only albums produced within the last five years are eligible, and only one album by a musical act can be considered in any one selection period.

The artists selected must be from "the greater Hartford area, those who have a major impact on the Hartford music scene," White says. The specific requirement on The Beat's FAQ page is that artists are "currently performing and/or based in the Greater Hartford area."

The initial group of curators includes jazz-inspired visual artist Andres Chaparro, The Bushnell's vice president of education and community relations Yolande Spears, longtime local



Lee Mixashawn Rozie is among the five inaugural artists in The Beat, a new local music archive created by Hartford Public Library. The albums stream for free on The Beat's website or can be downloaded with a Hartford library card. **HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY/COURTESY**

jazz booster Maurice D. Robertson of WWUH-FM, and the Hartford Jazz Society and musician/writer/producer June Archer of Eleven28 Entertainment.

There's nothing slapdash about the site, which couldn't be more respectful of the artists it selects. There are separate pages for the albums and for the biographic info on the artists who created those albums. Links to the musicians' websites or social media are included, and some even have ways to contribute money directly to the artists through PayPal or cashapp.

White hopes to add a page of Hartford music history to the site.

White created the short video promo that appears on The Beat's home page, featuring one of the inaugural artists, Ghazi Omair. White says The Beat is the first local music archive at Hartford Public Library (not counting some hard-to-get-at items in the Hartford History Center area).

"It's a first for the library, and may be a first for Connecticut."

When an album is chosen, the artist receives a \$250 honorarium, which also represents a licensing agreement for the library to post

and share the music. Funding for the project currently comes out of the library budget.

Only albums are allowed into the collection, White explains, partly due to the way the collection sets up licensing fee and honoraria, but also because of the desire to promote "a body of work" from each artist rather than a single song. The main idea, White says, is "an example of new initiatives and new visions, to amplify and empower local creative voices of Hartford."

One of the project's partnerships is with The Bushnell, which may lead to live concert opportunities for some of the artists.

Given its exclusivity and curatorial heft, inclusion in the collection is an honor. White is designing a graphic similar to the wreath-like awards symbols you see on the packaging for prize-winning films so that artists chosen by The Beat can promote themselves.

"From the beginning of this project," White says, "the feedback I've gotten from the artists is 'Oh, this is great; this is cool!'"

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

Red flag

from Page 1

professionals such as doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, clinical social workers and physician assistants.

Previously, the law allowed only a prosecutor or any two police officers to file a complaint with a judge in order to have a person's guns removed. Only a judge can order the actual seizure of the guns.

The wider definition of family members in the law now includes complaints by parents, grandparents, siblings, in-laws, children, stepchildren and grandchildren, among others. The bill also includes roommates and dating or intimate partners.

Those living with a person may have more firsthand knowledge than a police officer or prosecutor regarding a person's state of mind at the time, lawmakers said.

Depending on the circumstances, the order could be signed within "minutes or half an hour" in order to help a suicidal person who has access to firearms, according to Rep. Steven Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat who co-chairs the legislature's judiciary committee.

Jeremy Stein, a former prosecutor who serves as executive director of Connecticut Against Gun Violence, told reporters that his uncle was a U.S. Marine veteran who suffered from depression.

"He refused to get help, but he also refused to give up his gun," Stein said in Windsor. "He took his own life. ... My uncle may be alive today" if a risk protection warrant had taken away his gun.

Connecticut was the first state in the nation to adopt the law in 1999 after a 35-year-old state lottery employee shot and killed four senior lottery officials before killing himself. Since Connecticut's law was enacted, at least 19 other states and Washington, D.C. have adopted similar laws and



Republican candidate for Lt. governor, State Rep. Laura Devlin of Fairfield jokingly punches Republican candidate for governor Bob Stefanowski at the state Republican convention in May. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

have pulled ahead of Connecticut, lawmakers said.

Lamont used the opportunity to criticize the Republican lieutenant governor candidate for voting against a the changes in a preview of one of the hottest issues of the gubernatorial campaign.

Lamont noted that state Rep. Laura Devlin of Fairfield voted last year against expanding the law. The measure passed by 93-55 in the state House of Representatives with all but two Republicans voting against the final bill.

"It's disappointing," Lamont said as he stood with police officers and advocates outside the Windsor police department headquarters. "You'll have to ask her why she doesn't want a stronger red flag law. It saves lives."

But Devlin responded that Lamont was distorting her record. She voted with many Republicans for an earlier, bipartisan amendment that had strong support, but she voted against the final version of the bill along with four House Democrats.

"I support Connecticut's gold standard red flag laws, which is

why I joined the bipartisan vote against a law that would weaken them," Devlin said. "Why is it so hard for Governor Lamont to be honest with the people of Connecticut? My voting record shows strong support for common sense gun laws. This bill didn't strengthen our red flag laws, it weakened them, and put lives at risk, which is why I and many of my Democrat colleagues voted against it."

Republicans and Democrats have disagreed over the impact of the law.

"My concern about this bill was that it put lives at risk, making it harder for law enforcement to do their job, to protect those who are a danger to themselves and others," Devlin said. "Any delay in intervention puts people with mental health concerns or fear of violence at greater risk. This bill provides law enforcement with less information than they would have under existing law. I believe that early intervention and letting law enforcement do their job is better than muddying an already very strong red flag law for political grandstanding."

Since then, more than 2,600 warrants have been issued to take guns away, and the numbers increased after the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007 and the shooting deaths of 20 schoolchildren and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in 2012. The number of guns that have been seized has increased through the years.

"It has withstood the test of time," Lawlor said. "It's an effective law."

She added, "I am extremely disappointed in Governor Lamont for distorting my record and those of my bipartisan colleagues who joined me in voting against this legislation."

"Whether it's Bob Stefanowski or his running mate Laura Devlin, one thing is clear—the National Rifle Association has strong allies in both," said Lamont campaign spokesman Jake Lewis. "Red flag laws are proven to save lives and prevent tragedies. The safety of Connecticut communities are only as strong as our policies and Rep. Laura Devlin opposed strengthening seizure laws that prevent dangerous individuals from purchasing new firearms. Just as Bob promised when he proudly received the NRA's endorsement in 2018, together he and his running mate will oppose anything that makes it tougher on gun owners."

But police and advocates who gathered Tuesday sided with Lamont regarding the upgraded law.

Former state Rep. Michael Lawlor, a Democrat who served as the co-chairman of the judiciary committee, said that the original "red flag" law was signed into law by Republican Gov. John G. Rowland in 1999. The measure had been crafted by Republican Rep. Arthur O'Neill and others in bipartisan fashion.

Since then, more than 2,600 warrants have been issued to take guns away, and the numbers increased after the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007 and the shooting deaths of 20 schoolchildren and six educators at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in 2012. The number of guns that have been seized has increased through the years.

"It has withstood the test of time," Lawlor said. "It's an effective law."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

**PUBLIC NOTICES****NOTICE OF DECISIONS
MIDDLETON PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2022**

1. Approved with conditions a re-subdivision of a 7.95 acre property located at 644 Country Club Road into two building lots in the R-30 zone. Applicant/Agent: Domenico Fragomeni & Jadwiga Trzaska, S2022-2.

2. Approved request for a conversion of an unfinished attic space into two 1-bedroom units in an existing multi-family building located at 48 Liberty Street in the B-1 zone. Applicant/Agent: Braham Berg/ODADA Ventures, SPR2022-88.

Thomas Pattavina, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
6/15/22 7230443

**Legal Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Killingworth
Planning and Zoning Commission**

Planning and Zoning June 21 2022
Tue, Jun 21, 2022 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
(EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

Access Code: 377-272-317

The Killingworth Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing by Go To Meeting at 7:00 PM on, Tuesday, June 21, 2022, regarding the following –

Amend Killingworth Zoning Regulations, ARTICLE XXXIX: Temporary Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments, submitted by Killingworth Planning & Zoning Commission.

A copy of this application is on file with the Killingworth Town Clerk.

At this hearing written communications will be received and interested persons may be heard.

Thomas Lentz, Chairman
Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut, this 2nd day of June, 2022.
6/8, 6/15/2022 7227206

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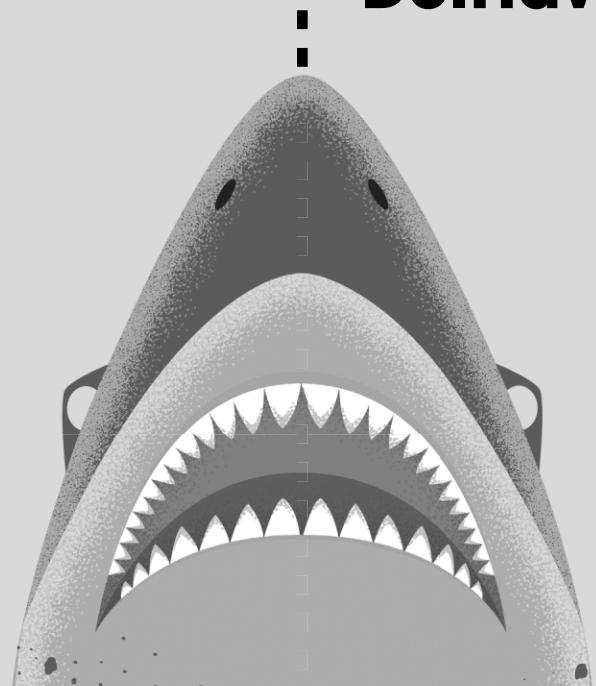
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PAOLA SALIBY/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Wedding crashers welcome

A confluence of factors is changing how couples handle guest lists

By Sara Clemence
The New York Times

For their Jan. 3 wedding, Dazzle Deal and Levi Dunn at first planned to purchase the package with the lowest minimum guest count offered by their venue, Sunset Castle, in Henderson, Nevada.

The ongoing pandemic aside, the couple anticipated a low turnout because their families are known to be "flaky," said Dazzle Dunn-Deal, 42, who works in customer service. (She and her 30-year-old husband, a tour guide, took a combined surname once married.) With the money they would save on a smaller event, the two, who live in Las Vegas, intended to visit Egypt for their honeymoon.

After invitations went out, though, more relatives than they had expected told the couple they planned to attend; some said they had booked flights. The Dunn-Deals soon decided to scrap their travel plans and forgo hiring a photographer and instead put that money toward a bigger event.

But as the date neared, guests began to drop out. Bad weather kept some away, others could not attend for various reasons. Dunn-Deal's brother, an engineer at a casino, had his time-off request denied because of a labor shortage, she said.

When they realized they had a serious guest deficit, the couple, worried about being charged for no-shows, asked their venue if there was any wiggle room on head count. "But once you've signed the

contract, that's that," Dunn-Deal said of the answer they received. So she shared an open invitation to the event in a Facebook group for Las Vegas weddings. Eight strangers ended up attending.

"I made new friends," Dunn-Deal said, some of whom she invited to her husband's birthday barbecue the following week.

People generally prefer that strangers steer clear of their nuptials — nobody wants to pay for an interloper's Champagne or have them proposition a bridesmaid. A confluence of factors is changing that.

While wedding guest lists by nature are fluid, the pandemic continues to make it harder to gauge attendance. COVID-19 is not the only reason head counts are more unpredictable: in a year when a record 2.5 million nuptials are expected to take place nationwide, some guests may simply find themselves overbooked. Weekday weddings, which can be difficult to juggle with work or school, have also been on the rise.

At the same time vendors, many of which suffered big financial losses over the past two years, have made their guest count requirements clearer and stricter, said Leah Weinberg, a lawyer and the owner of Color Pop Events in New York.

"Pretty much every wedding vendor overhauled their contract after COVID hit," said Weinberg, who noted that guest counts are generally agreed to when a vendor is booked, though payments are made closer to an event. "They will

say you can add to the guest count, but not subtract from it."

To avoid the awkwardness of empty tables, or to prevent hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars from going to waste when attendees drop out, more couples are now filling seats with people they know loosely, or not at all — welcome wedding crashers, if you will.

Last October, Jessica and Anthony Fanara, both 27, attended a stranger's wedding not far from their home in Holtsville, New York. Jessica Fanara, a stay-at-home parent, first learned about the event, which was held at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook, New York, from an open invitation shared in a Facebook group for Long Island weddings.

"People are like, how do you know the bride?" Jessica Fanara said. "I'm like, um, Facebook."

She and Anthony Fanara, who works for FedEx, enjoyed meeting the people with whom they were seated, she added, and invited two of them to fill seats at their nuptials in January.

That same month, just weeks before Carla Marie Stehman and Mehul Doshi's three-day wedding celebration from Feb. 10-12 in Chicago, the city started requiring proof of vaccination at restaurants and other indoor spaces. Among them was their reception venue, the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel.

"We lost about 25 people just because of Chicago's vaccination requirement," said Stehman, 40, who is a professional wedding officiant. All told, 45 of their expected

340 guests dropped out in the weeks ahead of their reception, for which they had agreed to a minimum guest count of 330 at a cost of around \$250 per person.

They had already postponed their nuptials, which combined elements of her American and his Indian cultures, twice because of the pandemic. And their winter-time date meant that the couple, who live in Chicago, couldn't easily move the reception outdoors.

"I said, 'I don't want this to go to waste; I bet there are a ton of people who would love to experience a fusion wedding,'" Stehman said.

In addition to inviting friends who weren't on their original guest list, Stehman and Doshi, a 42-year-old architect, posted an invitation to a private Facebook group. Dozens of strangers offered to attend and roughly 30 eventually did, filling more than two tables at the reception.

"With the cost per plate," for those seats to go empty "was just not acceptable," she said. "They didn't know me, but they showed up and participated and got to know our friends and family and danced the night away with us," she added of their last-minute guests.

Since then, she has had brunch with some of the strangers who attended their wedding. One has even hired Stehman, a Universal Life Church minister, to officiate at their ceremony.

"And I've been invited to two of their weddings," Stehman said. "One of them is currently at capacity but she's like, 'If anyone declines, will you come?'"

EX-ETIQUETTE

Keep interactions with ex friendly, but only about the kids

By Jann Blackstone
Tribune News Service

Q: My wife and I have been married for 6 months. I'm very close to my ex — she's the mother of our three children and the kids go back and forth between our homes. My wife was going through my phone and found some texts with my ex that she thought were too flirty and went ballistic. She said I'm too close to

my ex and now really hates whenever I talk to her. It makes it very difficult to co-parent. What's good ex-etiquette?

A: Since you didn't say you weren't flirting with your ex, I'm going to have to call you out on this one. Good co-parenting is dependent on good communication.

Touching base to discuss the kids is imperative. Good co-parenting is not dependent on familiar or flirty

interaction and if that's what you're doing, your wife is right. Some changes must be made, pronto.

Those changes start with a "heads up" conversation with your ex. Begin the conversation with you taking responsibility, not something that starts with, "Lisa (or insert wife's name here) doesn't like us talking." Because that's not the issue. It appears she didn't care if you talked.

She just doesn't want you to flirt with your ex. Most women would agree with her, so take responsibility for bad judgment and don't do it anymore. Keep your interaction friendly, but only about the kids.

How do you know if you're really out of line? Ask yourself how you would feel if you read similar texts between your wife and her ex. If you find yourself feeling uncomfortable,

then your wife deserves an apology.

Truth is, mom will always be mom, but your wife has an impact, as well. The kids need to feel comfortable at both homes and understand you respect their mother as their mother and your wife as your partner. Passing on that clear distinction is not only good co-parenting, but good parenting. Most of all, that's good ex-etiquette.



Co-parents walk a fine line when their break-up was amicable. VITEZSLAV SISPERA/DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Lizzo changes lyrics to remove slur

From news services

Lizzo came under fire after "unintentionally" using an offensive slur on her new track "GRRRLS," which will appear on her album "Special," out in July. The Grammy winner responded Monday to what fans dubbed an offensive lyric by completely changing the line.

The word — a slang term for "spastic" — is considered derogatory, and Lizzo was called out online by disability advocates for promoting ableist culture. But for anyone familiar with Lizzo's music, that's the opposite of her inclusive, body-positive modus operandi.

"Hold my bag, (expletive), hold my bag/ Do you see this (expletive)? I'm a (slur)," the original song said. After the criticism, the singer, 34, took action, changing the song's line to "Hold me back."

"It's been brought to my attention that there is a harmful word in my new song 'GRRRLS,'" Lizzo said in a statement posted Monday across her social media accounts. "Let me make one thing clear: I never want to promote derogatory language. ... I'm proud to say there's a new version of GRRRLS with a lyric change. This is the result of me listening and taking action. As an influential artist I'm dedicated to being part of the change I've been waiting to see in the world."

Label says BTS plan is not a hiatus: Global superstars BTS said they are taking time to focus on solo projects, but the company behind the K-pop group said they are not taking a hiatus. The group's seven members talked about their future in a video posted Tuesday celebrating the nine-year anniversary of their debut release.

Band member Suga asked if the group should talk about why they were



Lizzo, seen May 2, changed the lyrics after "unintentionally" using a slur on her song "GRRRLS." ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP

going into a hiatus. They discussed having to deal with COVID-19 interrupting their touring plans and music releases, as well as what each thought about their individual artistic goals. The group spoke in Korean, and the word "hiatus" was used in the video's English subtitles.

But a statement from Hybe, the South Korean entertainment company behind BTS, said they'll still be working on projects as a group, as well as individually. "BTS are not taking a hiatus. Members will be focusing more on solo projects at this time," the statement said.

No details about future BTS collaborations or the solo projects were announced Tuesday.

Spears' ex charged with stalking: A man once married to Britney Spears who showed up uninvited Thursday at the pop star's wedding to Sam Asghari was charged Monday with felony stalking.

Jason Alexander, 40, pleaded not guilty in Ventura County court to the charge, along with

misdemeanor counts of trespassing, vandalism and battery. The misdemeanor charges stemmed from his attempt to get into the wedding, which he livestreamed on Instagram. The stalking charge involved repeated incidents over time, Spears' attorney Mathew Rosengart said.

A judge issued a restraining order requiring Alexander to stay at least 100 yards from Spears for three years. The judge set his bail at \$100,000 and scheduled a Wednesday hearing on the issue.

Alexander was Spears' first husband. The two were married for less than three days in 2004 before an annulment.

June 15 birthdays: Singer Ruby Nash Garnett is 88. Actor Simon Callow is 73. Singer Russell Hitchcock is 73. Singer Steve Walsh is 71. Actor Jim Belushi is 68. Actor Julie Hagerty is 67. Actor Helen Hunt is 59. Actor Courteney Cox is 58. Rapper Ice Cube is 53. Actor Leah Remini is 52. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 49. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 32.

Storytelling on Navajo mystery series 'Dark Winds' 'inside job'

By Lynn Elber

Associated Press

Robert Redford and George R.R. Martin are the big names behind "Dark Winds," but they're not the most important.

That distinction belongs to the Native American creators and actors who ensured the AMC mystery series rings true to the Native experience and enduring culture, which largely has been snubbed or recklessly caricatured by Hollywood.

This time the storytelling is "an inside job," said director Chris Eyre, resulting in what he describes as a "Native American, Southwestern film noir."

Based on Tony Hillerman's admired novels featuring Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police, AMC's "Dark Winds" puts the newly teamed lawmen on a double-murder case that could be linked to a brazen armored-car heist.

The investigation and what underlies it is gripping but, as with Hillerman's books, what distinguishes "Dark Winds" is its intricate blend of nuanced characters and relationships, spiritual traditions and the devastating toll of entrenched inequality.

The last aspect is painlessly illustrated by a midwife's warning to a pregnant woman to avoid a hospital birth or risk unwanted sterilization, a reflection of what Native Americans faced in the series' 1970s setting, the producers said. (A 1976 U.S. General Accounting Office study found that women younger than 21 were being sterilized despite a moratorium, among other issues.)

"A lot of our history is based on oral tradition, said Zahn McClarnon, who stars as Lt. Leaphorn.



Kiowa Gordon, left, and Zahn McClarnon in "Dark Winds," based on Tony Hillerman's novels. MICHAEL MORIATIS/AMC

"We've been telling our stories for thousands of years. ... I think that the television business is finally seeing that, and realizing that we have our own stories, and that they're rich, deep stories."

"Dark Winds" — airing Sundays on AMC and streaming on AMC+ — is imbued with the stark grandeur of New Mexico, where it's largely set and was shot. The series counts

actor-filmmaker Redford and Martin, of "Game of Thrones" book and TV fame, among its executive producers. "Dark Winds" also boasts a nearly all Native writing staff, with one exception. Eyre ("Friday Night Lights," "Smoke Signals") directed the full series, and creator and executive producer Graham Roland is Chickasaw.

The cast features prominent Native actors including McClarnon; Kiowa Gordon as Chee; Jessica Matten as police Sgt. Bernadette Manuelito, and Deanna Allison as Leaphorn's wife, Emma.

Their resumes and performances refute longstanding industry complaints about a lack of experienced Native actors.

"I've heard that excuse before," said Roland.

"What we found when we went about casting this was the Native talent pool is a lot deeper than even I realized. ... Everybody in the show is amazing."

Roland ("Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan," "Fringe") was connected with the proposed series in 2019, before the recent boomlet of Native-inclusive shows such as "Reservation Dogs" and "Rutherford Falls."

"What was unique about it was the opportunity to tell a story in the Native community without a white character bringing you into the community and experiencing it through the white character's point of view," Roland said. Instead, the perspective is that of the Native character "who grew up there, lived there and polices that environment."

The decision to leave the story in the 20th century proved the right one for Eyre and Roland.

"When you drill down into the soil of the reservation proper ... there are places that don't have electricity to this day. There are communities that don't have water, that don't have cell service," Eyre said. "It's ironic that so much has changed, and so little has changed."



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Enabling parents look for way out of pattern

Dear Amy: Recently, our adult daughter "Clare" asked us for \$4,000 to help her daughter attend an expensive college (\$75,000 a year) on the East Coast. We had already just given Clare \$5,000 (for another purpose), and we offered tuition and housing for community college. She refused.

My husband and I are retired public school teachers. We sent all three children to universities. They graduated debt-free.

Our monthly expenses exceed our teachers' retirement, but we have some savings and a little bit of income. Things are tight.

Clare has not managed her money well. When she was in college we sent her \$500 a month, and she immediately quit her part-time job. She has squandered literally millions on pricy schemes and expensive homes. She now finds herself divorced and close to penniless — yet she refuses to find a job and relies on us for help.

Now her daughter is making similar choices.

Clare and her daughter have not been close or kind to us. Both have lied about our treatment of them and have ridiculed our gifts and lives on numerous occasions.

I feel used when they come asking for financial help. Yet I feel obligated! How do we say, "This is not the kind of help we can easily continue to give?"

— Tapped Out Teachers

Dear Tapped Out: If you and your husband saw a child in your classroom whose parents always swooped in to complete their homework, you would see how destructive

this behavior is and how it impedes the child's ability to handle challenges.

You have the spending problem.

Your lifetime practice of enabling "Clare" has helped to create an entitled, incompetent, needy and angry adult who lacks basic judgment — and now she is passing this onto the next generation.

You enable her because you are too anxious or afraid to face the discomfort you would feel if you stopped.

And then there is this: Clare isn't even nice to you!

She isn't nice to you when you give, and she won't be nice to you if you don't.

Your duty at this stage of life is to take care of yourselves responsibly. (Will Clare take you in when there is nothing left?)

All requests should be met with: "We're not giving any more money to you. You can solve your own problems — we believe in you!"

Don't supply excuses or explanations.

Dear Amy: I chat with my sister a few times per week on the phone. We usually call each other on a whim.

More and more lately, she multitasks while we are talking, either preparing and eating a snack, driving, etc.

The problem is that these activities create a lot of noises, some of which are quite distracting through the phone.

When she's driving, the call often cuts out.

She has even called me while at a cafe, then asks me to hold on while she orders or pays.

If I am in the middle of

something when she calls, I ask her if I can get back to her in a few minutes.

If I notice she's multitasking when I call, I offer to call back later, but she usually says no and carries on with what she is doing.

What is accepted modern phone etiquette?

— Hanging on the Line

Dear Hanging: It's not necessarily "modern," but basic good manners means that you don't talk with your mouth full of food, initiate a conversation when you're in the middle of a transaction (or vice versa), or choose to contact someone when you can't pay full attention.

Don't offer to call back. Ask your sister if she could call back when there isn't so much background noise.

Dear Amy: I applaud your response to "Regretful," the gentleman who has been divorced from his first wife for many years and wants to apologize.

I wholeheartedly agree with your encouragement regarding this apology.

When my first husband and I had been divorced for 34 years, he called out of the blue and apologized for everything.

I didn't realize I needed to hear that, but I did.

He died very unexpectedly six weeks later. I'm thankful that he passed with a clear heart.

— Judy

Dear Judy: "A clear heart." That's what we should all strive for.

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

It's a day for radical healing. This may temporarily weigh you down, but it's also a special chance to soothe your hurts. Don't be scared to engage with heavy feelings. You might have to tear some walls down, and you should feel much freer afterward.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Out of sight doesn't mean out of mind right now. Your subconscious is asking you to acknowledge any wounds you have covered up or repressed, so that you can finally release them. Old baggage will only weigh you down — you'll be much happier when you stop carrying it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

You might be wondering whether or not you belong today. If your bonds have become strained, then see what you can do to ease the tension, but you may have to acknowledge problems before you can do that. If you're the one causing issues, be willing to own that and make your peace.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Something you've worked for may not be paying off at this time the way you had hoped. You could feel like all your effort is for nothing. Fortunately, this is actually an opportunity to understand why you have been working so hard in the first place. The answer could surprise you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Your confidence could unexpectedly waver today. Perhaps someone points out a gap in your knowledge, which will likely make you even more determined to prove yourself. However, this person might indeed be right, so be willing to open your mind, seeking growth in the process.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Today isn't for the light-hearted. Someone in particular might seem to be holding all the cards, leaving you with no options to play. Instead of pulling at straws, try to assert your agency without causing trouble. Speaking up for yourself is important, but so is listening.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

A relationship could cause you a bit of heartache today that leaves you feeling like someone you trust doesn't have your back. This could be a personal or business connection, but don't be shocked if the scales appear uneven. Getting on the same page will require effort.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Today could leave you feeling rather run-down or worn out. Acknowledge where you need to ease up on yourself and where you have been too lax. The truth might not be comfortable, but facing it is necessary in order to achieve a better and more realistic pace for yourself.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Putting yourself front and center could be easier said than done today ... or cost you more effort than it's worth, potentially making you feel lonely out there on center stage. Hold off on big reveals or premiering any projects, because you aren't likely to get the reception you're hoping for.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

No matter how much personal space you take, there's a chance you could feel rather overwhelmed today. Perhaps an old family trauma rears up and you can't control your response. Either way, you can handle this best by being emotionally receptive and honest.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Communications carry extra weight today. Someone could say something that really pushes your buttons, or perhaps you lose your temper and push someone else's. Be willing to apologize where necessary. That said, if someone owes you an apology, you deserve to get it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

Your finances could require some dire attention today that might leave you feeling like you never have enough. It's all right to feel like that, but try to ascertain why you feel limited. If you need a fresh source of income, start looking because an opportunity could rear its head.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On June 15, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta at Runnymede.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steam-

boat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched his second consecutive no-hitter.

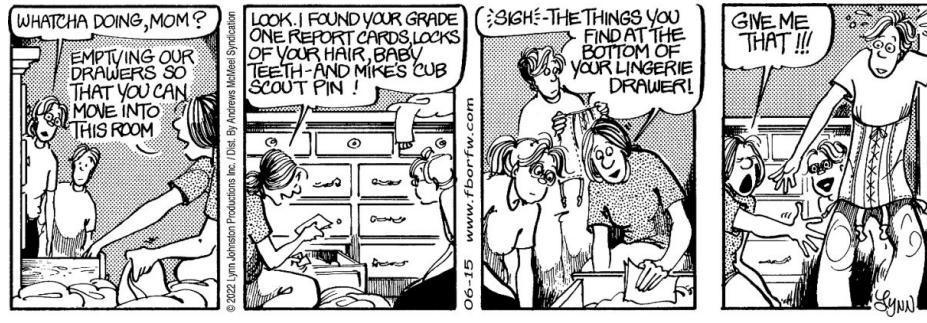
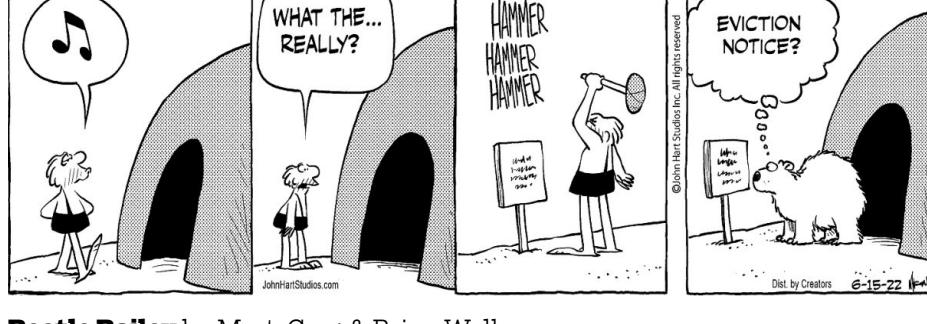
In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan during World War II.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the

biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

In 1996, Ella Fitzgerald, the "first lady of song," died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 79.

In 2

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Anti-art art movement
5 Israeli diplomat Abba
9 "Jack Ryan" actress Cornish
14 Massive
15 __ monster
16 Dern of "Big Little Lies"
17 *Close contest
19 Hub
20 Remote possibilities?
21 Boring gadgets
22 Knock on
23 Peanut butter choice
25 *Good thing to go out on
28 LPN's needle
29 Has had enough
31 From the top
32 Tater morsel
34 Horned buglers
35 Urchin's stinger
36 Get by ... or what the answers to the starred clues literally do
39 Many Dubai residents
41 Compete
42 Slack-jawed state
43 The Big Easy, for short
44 "One Day More" musical, to fans
46 Pool regimen
50 *Area with no cell service
52 With no chill
54 Feudal domains
55 Reebok competitor
56 Sprint
57 Betwixt
59 *Military academy on the Hudson

61 59-Across student
62 __ Domini
63 Genre featuring sitars
64 Regions
65 Set at a sports bar
66 Soccer star Morgan on the San Diego Wave

10 Skins that can be marinated and fried to make vegan "bacon"
11 "Zip your lip"
12 Wrath
13 Unit of maize
18 Tic-__-toe
19 Shark diver's enclosure
22 Roller derby spots
24 "That just might work!"
25 Poker variety
26 Point value of "five" in Scrabble
27 Woolly mama
30 Role for Lena on "Master of None"
33 Greenlights
35 Make use of a Singer
36 In bad faith, in legal jargon

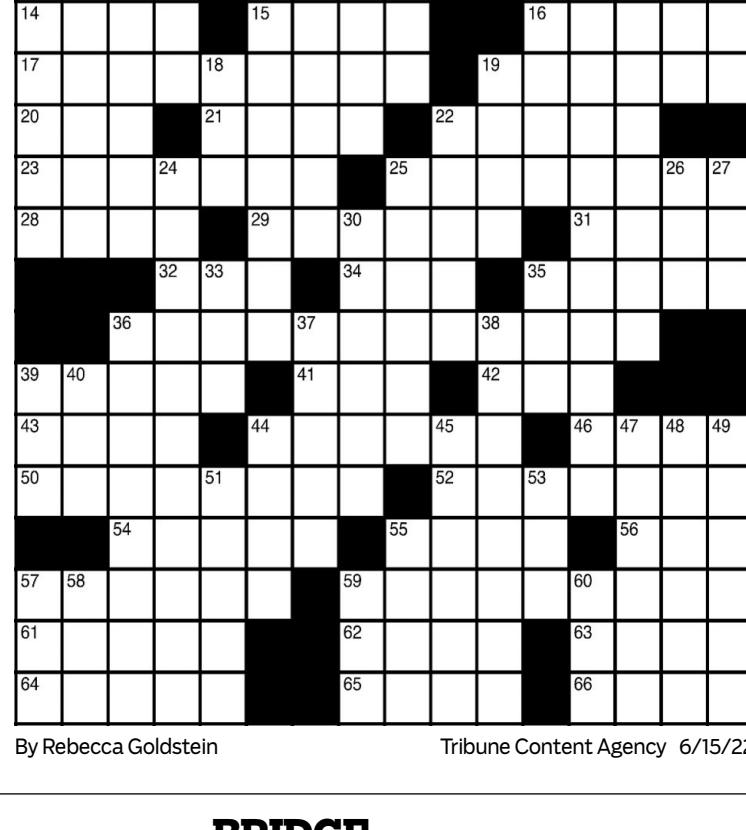
Down

1 Take off
2 Beekeeper's setup
3 Uneatharts
4 Hamburger beef?
5 Omelet specification
6 Flat rolls named for a Polish city
7 Donations
8 "You wish, laddie!"
9 Hebrew letter before "beth"

14
17
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By Rebecca Goldstein

Tribune Content Agency 6/15/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.**NORTH**♦ 7 6 4 3
♥ A 4
♦ A Q J 5
♣ Q 10 9**WEST**♦ 8 5
♥ J 9 8 5 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A 6 5**EAST**♦ Q J 10 9 2
♥ K 7 6
♦ K 8
♣ 8 3 2**SOUTH**♦ A K
♥ Q 10 2
♦ 10 9 6 3
♣ K J 7 4The bidding:
North 1 ♦
East 1 ♠
South 2 NT
West 3 NT

Opening lead — eight of spades.

First things first

Some situations that appear to be an outright guess actually don't involve a guess at all. Today's deal provides a case in point.

South arrives at three notrump after East has overcalled in spades. Declarer wins the opening spade lead with the ace and must then decide whether to attack clubs or diamonds first.

The only threat is East's spades. If they become established and he gains the lead before South can score nine tricks, the contract will fail, with declarer losing a club, a diamond and three spades.

It can be seen that if, in the actual deal, South attacks clubs initially, he will go down. West takes the club ace and returns a spade. When South eventually tries the diamond finesse, East wins and cashes his spades for a one-trick set.

If instead declarer attempts the diamond finesse at trick two, the contract is made. After taking the king, East can establish his spades, but he cannot regain the lead.

before South makes his contract since West has no spade to lead after winning the club ace.

The question, therefore, is how should declarer know to attack diamonds rather than clubs at trick two? The solution can be arrived at by a series of logical steps.

First, South should reason that the contract cannot be made if East has both the club ace and the diamond king. This possibility is therefore excluded from consideration.

Second, the contract will always succeed if West has the diamond king, regardless of which suit is broached first. So this case is also dismissed from consideration.

The only case that matters, therefore, is the one where West has the club ace and East the diamond king. In that event, diamonds must be attacked at trick two in order to knock out East's entry before his spades are established.

Tomorrow: Asleep at the switch.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRAAK

HSIOT

SRUTYT

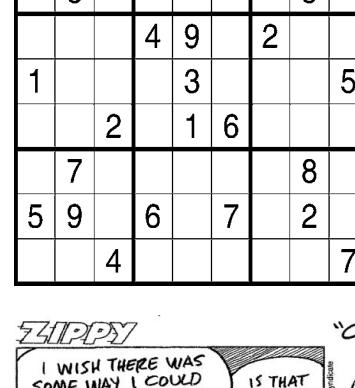
GNININ



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOUPY MOOSE FICKLE BOTHER
Answer: The husband and wife had purchased matching wristwatches a — COUPLE OF TIMES**TODAY'S SUDOKU**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

8	5	4	1	3	9	6	2	7
9	7	3	6	2	4	5	1	8
2	6	1	8	7	5	3	9	4
3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
4	8	5	7	1	3	2	6	9
7	2	6	5	9	8	4	3	1
6	3	8	9	5	7	1	4	2
1	4	7	3	8	2	9	5	6
5	9	2	4	6	1	7	8	3

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

I	N	C	A	C	C	S	P	A	M	A	Z	E
M	E	A	L	C	R	E	D	O	P	L	E	A
P	U	R	P	L	E	I	R	S	H	E	R	S
A	R	C	H	E	D	D	I	S	P	O	I	D
L	O	R	A	X	S	T	A	R	P	U	P	I
E	T	A	S	O	N	E	I	N	Y	O	R	N
S	I	S	E	L	I	A	M	F	A	M	F	A
C	H	I	L	D	P	R	O	O	L	I	D	I
H	E	R	E	R	D	S	T	I	D	I	D	I
E	R	E	R	E	D	S	T	I	D	I	D	I
B	B	S	S	S	D	S	T	I	D	I	D	I
P	A	L	E	O	S	U	I	T	P	E	S	O
F	L	A	T	W	H	I	T	E	M	I	S	T
I	C	U	S	I	M	P	O	L	K	A	S	S
Z	O	R	A	T	S	T	O	N	G	U	E	L
E	V	E	N	N	U	I	O	N	O	T	T	O
R	E	L	Y	P	E	T	T	Y	W	E	P	P

Author gives communities books, hope



Heidi Stevens

Balancing Act

When a white supremacist opened fire at a Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York, Sheletta Brundidge began searching for ways to help the community — and the country — heal.

She read a news story about Zeneta Everhart, whose son Zaire Goodman was injured in the shooting while working at Tops. Everhart put out a call for children's books that address and combat racism to distribute around Buffalo. Brundidge, a Minnesota-based radio host, Emmy-winning comedian, autism advocate and mom of four, is also a children's book author. She gathered a collection of her three books ("Daniel Finds His Voice," "Cameron Goes to School" and "Brandon Spots His Sign"), threw in a bunch of Crown Shepherd's "Black Boy, Black Boy" and "Black Girl, Black Girl" and shipped more than 1,000 books to Buffalo.

"I want the children in Buffalo to know somebody outside their community cares about them," Brundidge told me. "That we love them and we value them enough to send them a little piece of us. Every person in that community has been touched by that shooting and I don't want them to think they are hurting or grieving alone. I want them to know there's love inside that book from Minnesota."

Ten days after the Tops shooting, a gunman with an AR-15 walked into Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and slaughtered 19 students and two teachers.

I will admit to moments



Shawn Brundidge wipes away a tear at a memorial honoring the victims of the school shooting at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. **SHELETTA BRUNDIDGE/TNS**

— a lot of them — of hopelessness and despair on the topic of gun violence in America. It's hard for me to imagine what will move legislators to make meaningful change to gun safety laws, what will move assault rifle owners to renounce their allegiance, if not the blood that was shed at Columbine, at Sandy Hook, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas, at every mass shooting in and among those.

I will admit to watching brave, broken survivors — including, most recently, a fourth-grader — testify before Congress and finding it all a bit obscene. Over and over we ask the grieving and traumatized to bare their wounds in a desperate attempt to nudge away from this toxic status quo. And over and over we haven't budged.

But hopelessness is

defeat. And defeat means all those lives were cut short, all those surviving hearts were shattered, all those families are left grieving, all of it, in vain.

So I turn to people like Brundidge for guidance.

"I can't get stuck in hopelessness," she told me. "Then I don't move. Then I don't take action."

After the Uvalde shooting, Brundidge read a story about the staff at El Progreso Memorial Library, a few blocks from Robb Elementary, deciding whether to close the day after the shooting out of respect for the lives lost.

"Everybody in Uvalde knows everybody," Brundidge told me. "You have a shooting in Houston or Chicago or Minneapolis, you might not know anyone who was shot. Everybody in Uvalde knows every one of those families."

Ultimately, the library stayed open and librarian Martha Carreon conducted her weekly story time to a group of children, the day after rushing out of work to pick up her own panicked child at a nearby school, only to find it locked down.

When Brundidge read that story, she knew what she had to do. "I told Shawn, 'Fire up the RV. We're going to Uvalde.'

Shawn is her ex-husband/best friend. They piled their four children, an aunt, a couple of uncles and a whole bunch of her books into their RV and hit the road.

Brundidge connected with Houston bookstore Buy the Book to hold a one-day book drive, where customers purchased books to donate to El Progreso's summer reading program. She also connected with her Dallas

based podcasting friends, the J.E.T. Setting Divas, who got to work creating care packages for each staff member and volunteer at El Progreso — even the grounds crew.

They dropped their kids with Brundidge's mom in Houston and drove to Uvalde, where they delivered the goods and visited a memorial to the children and teachers killed at Robb Elementary and shared meals and tears and laughter, even, with folks stumbling through a nightmare.

"These people need to feel us," Brundidge said. "They need to see us. They need us to help them heal. You have to bring your light. The only way to drive out darkness is light."

I admitted to Brundidge that I sometimes give up hoping we'll see a time when mass shootings don't punctuate our days and

nights and fears. I asked her if she ever gives up hope.

"I'm a Christian," Brundidge. "So I lean on my faith. I lean on God."

She also leans on history.

"This country is so resilient," she said. "This country overcame slavery. Slavery! And now we have an African American woman vice president. You can't tell me we can't do anything. But we have to do more than thoughts and prayers. Thoughts and prayer are important. But they're not enough. We have to do something. We have to act."

With hope at the center.

Heidi Stevens is a Tribune News Service columnist. You can reach her at heidikstevens@gmail.com, find her on Twitter @heidistevens13 or join her Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group.

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YANKEES

Judge adding lead-off hitter to his impressive resume

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge wanted to apologize after that game. He's not your traditional lead-off hitter, so when Tigers starter Beau Brieske threw him a fastball to start last week's game, the slugger simply hammered it for a home run.

"Just saw what I liked. I really wasn't gonna swing, but then saw something I liked," Judge said of the fastball he crushed. "I felt bad for [Josh Donaldson] behind me. ... usually when DJ [LeMahieu] is leading off he gives me about seven or eight pitches that kind of warm

me up and let me see the pitcher, but I only gave JD one pitch to see what he's got.

"Luckily I was able to get a run in."

Judge has started six games leading off in his career and five times this season, including both Saturday and Sunday. While he apologized for not being the traditional lead-off hitter, who works a lot of pitches and gets on base, Judge does fit the mold for the way the spot is being used more and more.

"It's not as important to work the count more based on how good the

Turn to Yankees, Page 2



The Yankees' Aaron Judge runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Tigers starting pitcher Beau Brieske in the first inning June 4 in New York. JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

RED SOX

Sale encouraged by his progress as return nears

By Steve Hewitt

Boston Herald

BOSTON — Chris Sale can see the finish line of his months-long rehab, his arm feels strong and the left-hander is encouraged as his return to the Red Sox inches closer.

But it can't come soon enough for a pitcher who craves competition and prides himself on being available and productive for his team, but has only thrown 42 2/3 major league innings since the end of 2019. Sale understands the circumstances that have led to his regular absence for the last two-plus years — first Tommy

John surgery, then a freak injury this year — but it doesn't make it any less frustrating for him.

"I'm as good as a sack of potatoes right now for this team," Sale said Tuesday at Fenway Parkinside the Red Sox dugout. "At least that would feed them. I'm doing literally nothing to help this team. That sucks. I don't want to lose that competitive edge of just being alright with it, because I'm not."

Soon, though, it appears Sale won't have to deal with that self-pity anymore. On Monday in Fort Myers, he made the most significant leap in his rehab as he

Turn to Sox, Page 2

WNBA SUN

Roster move in the works just ahead of Dream game

By Lila Bromberg

Hartford Courant

UNCASVILLE — The WNBA season is already more than a third of the way through, but plenty of tinkering is still taking place for teams around the league.

For the Connecticut Sun, another roster move is already underway. The franchise waived guard Yvonne Anderson last Saturday and plans to announce a contract for a new player on Wednesday morning ahead of a game against the Atlanta Dream.

"The amount and the success that we're having playing [Alyssa Thomas] as a true point guard gives us the flexibility to look at a different position because of the amount of confidence that we have that AT can play point," Sun general manager and head coach Curt Miller told The Courant of the decision to waive Anderson on Tuesday. "So with her playing there a lot, Natisha [Hiedeman] there, we felt that it gave us some flexibility to look at a different position."

So what position will be added? When asked whether it would be a wing or a post player, Miller said the team will sign "a versatile guard."

Thomas, who has mostly played at the three and four spots since being drafted in 2014, has increasingly seen more minutes at point guard since Jasmine Thomas suffered a season-ending ACL injury against the Indiana Fever May 22. The Sun have been tinkering with a rotation of Alyssa Thomas, Courtney Williams, DeWanna Bonner, Jonquel Jones and Brionna Jones — pegged as the "jumbo lineup" because four of those five players are 6 feet 2 or taller.

"It's definitely an adjustment," Alyssa Thomas said Tuesday. "It's a way for me to be able attack, assist, have mismatches. So, for me, just still feeling it out. Every game is different, every team plays that lineup different. It's just been a learning process."

Much of that learning has been on the fly as the Sun began rolling out the lineup during a stretch of nine games in 17 days. But players and coaches are quick to point out that Alyssa Thomas has always been a skilled facilitator, which has certainly helped smooth the transition.

"It's always been something where she pushes the ball for us a lot, she brings it up, she dictates a lot of what we do," Jasmine Thomas said. "So I'm not surprised at all that naturally she's able to get more and more comfortable at the position as we go."

"When you can have five All Stars on the court at one time,

Turn to Sun, Page 4

Up next

Dream at Sun

7 p.m., NESN+

INSIDE

WNBA star Griner's Russia

detention extended for third time. *Page 4*

GOLF'S TRADITIONAL POWER AGAINST A CONTROVERSIAL UPSTART

THE COUNTRY CLUB
BROOKLINE, MASS.

THUR.-SUN.
PRIZE MONEY TBA

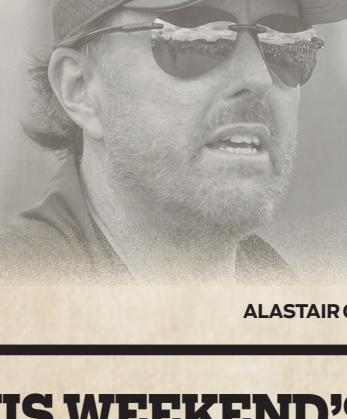
PGA TOUR

VS

LIV GOLF

★★★ ALSO FEATURING ★★★

PHIL MICKELSON vs RORY McILROY



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

THIS WEEKEND'S U.S. OPEN SET AGAINST BACKDROP OF FIGHT OVER NEW LEAGUE

By Jason Mastrodonato | Boston Herald

U.S. Open at a glance

Site: Brookline, Massachusetts.

Course: The Country Club. Yardage: 7,264.

Par: 70.

Television: Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (USA Network), 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (NBC), 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (USA Network); Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (USA Network), 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (NBC); Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. (NBC); Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. (NBC).

Defending champion: Jon Rahm.

In what could be one of the last golf majors played by a handful of former PGA Tour stars who appear to be on the verge of being blacklisted from the sport, there's a clear divide

ahead of the U.S. Open this week.

It's the loyalists vs. the scabs. The good guys vs. the bad. Those who want to preserve history and maintain golf's place as one of the most lucrative sports in America vs. those who are unabashedly chasing dollars and don't seem to care much about legacy, history or tradition.

And as much as Mickelson says he values his relationships with players on the PGA Tour, and as much as McIlroy says he still respects Mickelson as a golfer, there's no hiding the discontent between the PGA Tour players who intend to stay and those who have already left.

"My dad said to me a long time ago, once

Turn to Open, Page 6

UCONN BASEBALL

Penders left with lasting memories, more determination



Dom Amore

This has always been the toughest day of the year for Jim Penders, the day his players scatter all over the country, never to meet as a complete corps again.

"This is the gut-wrenching day, my least favorite day of the

year because you've got to say 'goodbye,'" Penders said Tuesday before boarding a plane home from California. "When that last out is recorded, we'll never all be together again. That's the saddest part of these things. It's just so sudden, unlike any other NCAA sport, they leave for summer ball, for internships, it's almost immediate scatter."

The UConn baseball team put

that day off longer than most of

their predecessors, reaching the

super regional round and extend-

More UConn news

UConn women's basketball:

Star Paige Bueckers announces

partnership with Crocs. *Page 4*

provided a charter so at least this time the coaches and players didn't have to leave on several separate commercial flights; they were able to say their goodbyes and relive the season during the six-hour flight home.

They had much to be proud of, as Penders has been letting them know from the moment Matt Donlan's foul pop was caught by Stanford's Drew Bowser to end Game 3.

Turn to Amore, Page 4

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Celtics: NBA Finals; vs. Warriors (Game 6), Thursday, 9 p.m.; at Warriors (Game 7, if necessary), Sunday, 8 p.m.
Red Sox: Athletics, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Athletics, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.; Cardinals, Friday, 7 p.m.
Yankees: Rays, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Rays, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Blue Jays, Friday, 7 p.m.
Mets: Brewers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Brewers, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Marlins, Friday, 7 p.m.
Yard Goats: Akron, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Akron, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Akron, Friday, 7 p.m.
Sun: Dream; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Storm, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Mystics, Sunday, 2 p.m.
Hartford Athletic: Memphis, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Atlanta United II, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Louisville City, June 25, 1 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL

1 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
4 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Oakland Athletics at Boston Red Sox. (Live), NESN. Radio: 1080
7 p.m.: Tampa Bay Rays at New York Yankees. (Live), YES. Radio: 97.9
7 p.m.: Milwaukee Brewers at New York Mets. (Live), FS1, SNY. Radio: 880
10 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB

BASKETBALL

7 p.m.: Atlanta Dream at Connecticut Sun. (Live), NESN+
FOOTBALL

5 a.m.: Richmond Tigers vs Carlton Blues. (Live) FSP

HOCKEY

8 p.m.: 2022 Stanley Cup Final Tampa Bay Lightning at Colorado Avalanche. (Live) ABC SPRTNET

SOFTBALL

8 p.m.: AUX Softball Team Gold vs. Team Blue. (Live) ESPN2
10:30 p.m.: AUX Softball Team Orange vs. Team Blue. (Live) ESPN2

YANKEES NOTES

Injured Chapman throws, needs one more session before he faces hitters

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Aroldis Chapman was throwing on the field before Tuesday's series-opener against the Ray at Yankee Stadium. It was the second time the closer has thrown off the mound and he will need one more session before he is ready to face hitters, Yankees pitching coach Matt Blake said.

Chapman has been on the injured list with an Achilles issue, but it has held him back for about a week and a half. He's used his time on the IL to work on his delivery. In the last five games he pitched before going on the IL, Chapman was scored on in each. He allowed six earned runs over 3.2 innings pitched.

Chapman threw 25 pitches Tuesday, all of them hitting 96- to 98-miles an hour, Blake said. He had some balls go wild, which has been a problem in the past.

Yankees

from Page 1

pitcher's stuff has gotten... also most starting pitchers aren't going three or four times through the order so the pitch count thing isn't as important," one MLB rival coach said. "The first pitch of the game is probably one of the only times a fastball is the primary pitch thrown."

That and the fact that there is so much video on pitchers that hitters can study before the game is reshaping the thinking of who is leading off. Yankees manager Aaron Boone cited the Dodgers using Mookie Betts and the Blue Jays using George Springer in that role.

"I mean, I like him wherever he's going to hit," Boone said of Judge. "We've only done it a few times now, right? [Sunday], I originally didn't have him leading off, but once we had to move the lineup around a little bit, for me I like to create as much balance as I can. But, certainly, I like him getting up there as many times as possible."

What's not to like? Judge, who is a pending free agent at the end of this season, is not only on pace for a career year, he's on a historic pace. With 24 home runs, he leads the majors. He's slapping .318/.391/.686 with a 1.077 OPS in 58 games this season.

Judge has three career lead off home runs now, all this season. In his five starts atop the lineup, Judge is hitting .368/.391/.842 with a 1.233 OPS.

But with that power, it's hard for Boone to ignore hundreds of years of base-

Jumping in: With Josh Donaldson serving his one-game suspension for his "disrespectful comments," to White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson Tuesday night, it was a chance for Yankees manager Aaron Boone to get Matt Carpenter back in the lineup.

The 36-year old infielder has eight hits as a Yankee in limited playing time and six of them are home runs. He's coming off a game Sunday when he was an emergency starter and went out and hit two home runs and a double to drive in seven runs.

Trevino back: Catcher Jose Trevino, who was a late scratch on Sunday because of a back issue, was back in the lineup Tuesday night.

"I'm not too worried about it. I felt like he probably could have played Sunday but with the off day felt like it was the right thing, especially coming off that night game," Boone said of Trevino's back issue.

ball and not be tempted to try and get someone on base ahead of Judge, so he can help drive in more runs. Of his major-league-leading 24 home runs this season, Judge has 18 that are solo shots and the Yankees have scored just 33 runs on his homers.

So, Boone has used six different lead-off hitters this season. LeMahieu is their most frequent lead-off hitter, hitting atop the lineup 24 times.

"I don't mind leading off," Judge said. "It doesn't really matter if I'm leading off or hitting second. You gotta keep your approach the same."

The first 60 games of this season have been something of an emergence for Judge, breaking through some of the roles he'd been in for the last few years. Sunday, Judge made his 25th start in center field, closing in on the 35 starts he has made at right field, where he spent most of his career.

Judge played center as an amateur and likes being in the center of the defense.

"I can move guys around a little bit more because I'm right there in the middle so I can see different things. What guys swings are, where the pitches are, because in right and left, you are kind of just reacting. You can't really see it.... I just enjoy it," Judge said earlier this month.

The versatility in the field and in the batting order is something that the Yankees are embracing more and more. It is also going to be another thing Judge can sell on the free agent market this winter — if the Yankees let him get there.



Red Sox pitcher Chris Sale reacts after giving up a two-run double to the Astros' Yordan Alvarez during Game 5 of the ALCS on Oct. 20 in Boston. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

SOX

from Page 1

pitched to live hitters for the first time since he suffered a stress fracture in his rib cage back in February. He reportedly touched 96 mph with his fastball during that session.

On Tuesday, he rejoined the Red Sox as they began their nine-game homestand at Fenway, where he'll continue his rehab and throw another live BP on Thursday before potentially going out on a rehab assignment. Tuesday was another good day for Sale, who was all smiles as he embraced teammates in the clubhouse he hadn't seen in a while. Physically, he felt even more encouraged.

"Today's almost more exciting than yesterday because I felt like I could go do that again today if I had to," Sale said. "If they told me, hey, you've got a live BP again today, I wouldn't flinch. That, to me, is more exciting and telling and my body telling me, hey, you're ready for this now."

Just as exciting is the velocity on his fastball at this stage. A year ago, as he returned from Tommy John, Sale was still building

back his arm strength. But given that the injury he suffered this year had nothing to do with his arm, he's even stronger now. It was a focus of his offseason work, and he's eager to pitch with a fresh arm.

"I just want to play with this thing," Sale said. "I've worked really hard and a lot of people worked very hard to get me to this position arm-wise and my arm is ready to go and just like I said, ran into a little bit of bad luck there over the last few months....

"I did everything this offseason I could for arm strength. I went old school. We're long tossing. We're throwing foul pole to foul pole. Me and Nick (Pivetta) were playing freaking Tarzan catch in the offseason because I knew the one thing I needed was arm strength. That part of it, I wasn't really worried about it. Obviously getting that number (96 mph) in a live BP at 10 o'clock in an empty stadium, that feels good. It's a sign of going in the right direction. But it's not the end-all, be-all for me."

Sale is also focused on his command, which he lacked in stretches in his return last season. But he feels much better about it this time around.

RED SOX NOTES

Story 'a force' at second base as infield defense displays major improvements

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Alex Cora preferred to wait before he started gushing about the Red Sox's much-improved infield defense this season.

"We have played 60 games, so I can talk about it now," the manager said Tuesday.

The strides that the Red Sox have made defensively through two months are clear from the naked eye.

Rafael Devers looks more comfortable than he ever has at third base, making highlight-reel plays like the bare-handed one he made Sunday in Seattle. Xander Bogaerts has been smoother at shortstop. And Trevor Story's transition to second base has looked seamless.

But the numbers are bearing it out too.

Cora read an article Tues-

day posted by Mark Simon of Sports Info Solutions that put into context just how much better the Red Sox have been, and it's been impressive. According to Simon, the Red Sox ranked last in percentage of ground balls and bunts turned into

outs last season. This season

they rate eighth in that category, which is the biggest improvement in the majors.

Entering Tuesday the Red Sox were tied for second with the Yankees with 31 defensive runs saved.

Simon laid out the details, which include how Story's presence has changed the defense, and how Devers and Bogaerts have turned from below-average fielders to average. Cora said it's all a credit to work put in over the offseason and an organizational effort that included buy-in from the coaching staff to the players.

"There are a lot of things they did in the offseason that we asked them to do in November that is paying off," Cora said. "Narrow setup, first step, quickness. Raffy did other things that throughout the season I've learned about that have helped him....

"It started in spring training. It started in spring training 2020, actually. You guys weren't there, but the whole

setup with the defensive thing — it took us a while, but to see where we're at right now is a testament of the players and that coaching staff down there."

Ezequiel Tovar accounted for the Hartford runs with a two-run homer, his 13th, in the first inning. Kyle

Marman (2-1) picked up the win in relief for Akron, while Julian Escobedo had three hits, two runs scored and an RBI.

The Yard Goats are 38-20 in the season.

METS

Scherzer still only halfway to returning to mound

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Max Scherzer's oblique strain is 90% recovered, but only halfway there.

The expensive ace revealed he received a P4P injection not long after suffering his injury, and the treatment went well enough to begin his tedious climb to the finish line quickly.

"The way to describe this injury and the rehab of this, half of the battle is getting back to 90% and then the second half of this battle is 90% to 100%," Scherzer said. "With the trainers here we've done a good job of getting back to 90% but I'm still fighting the fight here to get back to 100%."

Confusing math notwithstanding, Tuesday's update was encouraging. Scherzer threw in the outfield before the Mets' game against the Brewers, having returned to the club after rehabbing at home during its 10-game road trip. He's scheduled to pitch a live batting practice session this week and the ideal scenario, as Scherzer explained, is one rehab start before an MLB return.

But Scherzer was also careful not to put timelines or expectations on his recovery.

"You just have to keep increasing your workload. You have to be cognizant and very aware of your body from how you stress it and how does it respond. You have to know what's going on and what is normal and what's not," Scherzer said. "The other way I kind of describe it right now is breaking in a new shoe. It doesn't feel good when you break in a new shoe, but you got to do it. That's how I kind of feel now. I'm breaking through the scar tissue here of getting back to throwing and bullpens and everything. As you stress it, you're going to feel different things. But you don't want it to spiral out of control and have a setback."

The original recovery timeline of 6-to-8 weeks would have Scherzer back by mid-July. He's not paying attention to that estimate.

"It means nothing to me. I'm just doing what I can do every single day," Scherzer said. "Come out here and work, put my work in, whatever I can handle. If I can do it quickly, great. If I do it slower, great. I can only do what I can do."

Scherzer noted that former Nationals teammate Yan Gomes returned just 19 days after treating the same injury with a PRP injection.

"Actually in a big-league ballgame in 19 days. That's crazy," Scherzer said. "I can also see how he did it. If it works for you, it can really work. And I feel like it worked for me and got me back to 90%, the first half of this, pretty fast. I was back out there at 90% really quick. It's the last 10% here that's the danger."

RUBBER DUCKS 5, YARD GOATS 2

Akron rallies for 4 in ninth to grab win

Staff report

HARTFORD — The Akron Rubber Ducks scored four runs in the ninth inning to bring an end to the Yard Goats' nine-game win streak

with a 5-2 Eastern League win on Tuesday night at Dunkin' Donuts Park.

Akron's Bo Naylor delivered the key blow in the ninth with a three-run

home run off Gavin Hollowell

(3-1), who took the loss after

allowing all four runs in the final inning on three hits.

Ezequiel Tovar accounted

for the Hartford runs with

a two-run homer, his 13th, in the first inning. Kyle

Marman (2-1) picked up the

win in relief for Akron, while Julian Escobedo had three

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The Yard Goats are 38-20 in the season.

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BASEBALL**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	44	16	.733	—	—	9-1	W-4	26-7	18-9
Toronto	36	24	.600	8	—	6-4	W-2	19-10	17-14
Tampa Bay	35	25	.583	9	—	6-4	W-1	21-13	14-12
Boston	32	29	.525	12 1/2	—	8-2	W-1	13-14	19-15
Baltimore	26	36	.419	19	6 1/2	4-6	L-1	15-15	11-21
TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Minnesota	36	27	.571	—	—	6-4	W-1	20-14	16-13
Cleveland	29	27	.518	3 1/2	1/2	7-3	W-1	16-10	13-17
Chicago	28	31	.475	6	3	5-5	W-1	13-17	15-14
Detroit	24	36	.400	10 1/2	7 1/2	4-6	L-2	16-18	8-18
Kansas City	20	40	.333	14 1/2	11 1/2	4-6	L-3	12-21	8-19
TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	37	24	.607	—	—	4-6	L-1	16-10	21-14
Texas	29	31	.483	7 1/2	2 1/2	5-5	W-3	14-16	15-15
Los Angeles	29	33	.468	8 1/2	3 1/2	2-8	L-1	17-18	12-15
Seattle	27	34	.443	10	5	5-5	L-2	13-13	14-21
Oakland	21	41	.339	16 1/2	11 1/2	4-6	L-1	7-23	14-18

BOX SCORES**GAME 1:
ST. LOUIS 3, PITTSBURGH 1**

Pittsburgh AB R H BI SO AVG

Marcano lf	4	0	0	0	0	.288
Reynolds dh	3	0	2	0	1	.255
Hayes 3b	4	0	0	0	2	.271
Chavis 1b	3	0	0	0	1	.269
a-Vogelbach 1b	2	0	0	0	1	.201
Castillo ss	2	0	0	0	1	.201
b-Park ph	1	0	0	0	1	.200
Suwinski cf	4	0	1	0	2	.216
Chang 2b	3	1	2	1	0	.208
c-Smith-Nigjiba 1	0	1	0	0	1	.000
Mitchell rf	4	0	1	0	1	.203
Delay c	2	0	0	0	0	.000
TOTALS	32	1	7	1	10	
St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Donovan rf-1b	4	1	0	2	0	.308
Gorman 2b	4	0	0	0	3	.257
Goldschmidt dh	4	2	3	0	0	.338
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	.271
O'Neill lf	3	0	1	0	1	.228
Pujols 1b	3	0	1	0	0	.218
1-Carlson rf	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Bader cf	4	0	1	0	0	.257
Molina c	4	1	0	1	0	.220
Sosa ss	4	0	0	0	0	.188
TOTALS	34	3	7	3	7	
Pittsburgh	000	000	100	—	1	7
St. Louis	002	100	00x	—	3	0

a-struck out for Chavis in the 8th. b-struck out for Castillo in the 9th. c-doubled for Chang in the 9th. 1-ran for Pujols in the 7th. E: Castillo 3(5), Vogelbach 1(1). LOB: Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 11. 2B: Smith-Nigjiba 1(1). HR: Chang 1(1), off Cabrera; Goldschmidt 1(4), off Brubaker. RBIs: Chang 2(2), Goldschmidt 3(51). Runners left in scoring position: Pittsburgh 3(Mitchell 2, Hayes); St. Louis 5 (Sosa, Goldschmidt 3, Gorman). RISP: Pittsburgh 0(or) 6, St. Louis 0(or). 10. Runners moved up: Chang, Donovan. GIDP: Chang, Delay, Pujols. DP: Pittsburgh 1(Hayes, Chang, Chavis); St. Louis 2(Sosa, Gorman, Pujols); Sosa, Gorman, Pujols). PITTSBURGH IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Brubaker, L-0,7 5 7 3 2 2 4.50

Beede 2/4 0 0 1 2 3.42

ST. LOUIS IP H R ER BB SO ERA

Liberatore, W-2-1 5 3 0 0 2 4.00

VerHagen, H-2 1 1 0 0 1 1.91

Cabrera, H-10 1/2 2 1 1 0 2.22

Heitman, H-5 3/4 0 0 0 1 2 0.36

Heineiman c 3 0 0 0 0 0 0.140

b-Mitchell ph 1 0 0 0 0 1.200

Chang 2b 3 1 0 0 0 0.143

c-Perez cf 1 0 0 0 0 0.105

TOTALS 34 5 7 5 6

ST. LOUIS AB R BI SO AVG

Liberatore, W-2-1 5 3 0 0 2 4.00

VerHagen, H-2 1 1 0 0 1 1.91

Cabrera, H-10 1/2 2 1 1 0 2.22

Heitman, H-5 3/4 0 0 0 1 2 0.36

Heineiman c 3 0 0 0 0 0 0.140

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TOTALS 34 5 7 5 6

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TOTALS 34 5 7 5 6

ST. LOUIS AB R BI SO AVG

Liberatore, W-2-1 5 3 0 0 2 4.00

VerHagen, H-2 1 1 0 0 1 1.91

Cabrera, H-10 1/2 2 1 1 0 2.

SPORTS**UCONN NOTES**

By Lila Bromberg and Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

UConn women's basketball guard Paige Bueckers announced a partnership with Crocs, a popular shoe brand, on Monday night.

"Entering the Crocs chat," the Huskies star posted on Instagram.

The deal is one of many for Bueckers, who has fully capitalized on name, image and likeness laws since they were passed last summer. She works with Wasserman, an agency that represents some of the top talent in the

WNBA, including Breanna Stewart, Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird.

Bueckers became the first college athlete to partner with Gatorade last November. She also has announced deals with Stock X and Chegg.

UConn APR results: The NCAA announced that 14 UConn athletic teams recorded perfect 1,000 Academic Progress Rate scores for the 2020-21 school year, and five teams posted multiyear perfect APR scores, according to a university release on Tues-

day.

The 14 teams with perfect 1,000 APR scores for 2020-21 included women's basketball, men's basketball, women's cross country, rowing, field hockey, women's lacrosse, softball, women's soccer, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, volleyball, men's golf, men's hockey and men's soccer.

"Our student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, persevering through a 2020-21 academic year that was disrupted by the pandemic," UConn director of athletics David Benedict

said in the release. "They are tremendous representatives of UConn and their achievements, both academically and in competition, are a source of pride for our entire university community."

The five teams that posted perfect multi-year scores were softball, women's soccer, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis and men's golf. This includes data from the 2017-18 academic year to 2020-21.

The Huskies' overall APR for the university in 2021-22 was 992, with 14 teams posting multi-year APR scores of 983 or better.

Amore

from Page 1

"What an historic season it was," he said. "I've had some great teams, this team was a great team, but for some reason this team brought me more joy than any other. They came from such disparate backgrounds, circumstances, from all over the country. Seven of the nine starters, it was a brand new team from last year, yet they blended so well and made an unbelievable impact in a really short amount of time."

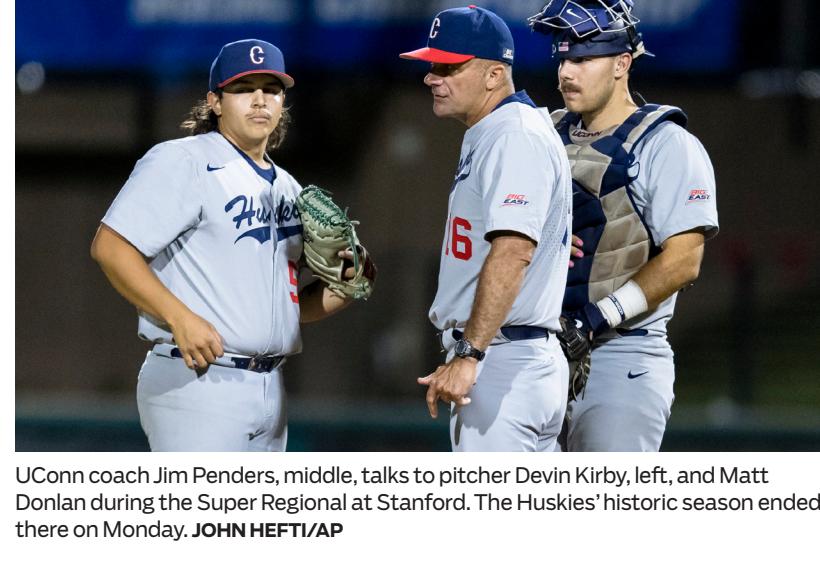
The Huskies, Big East regular-season and tournament champs, were the No. 3 seed at the Maryland Regional, which translates roughly to the 47th overall seed, reflecting UConn's RPI. They proceeded to prove how meaningless that metric can be, winning the regional and taking the first game of the best-of-three series at Stanford, 13-12.

"To get one step closer to Omaha, in my tenure we haven't been that close, is what made it so painful," Penders said. "We realize, and I realize, that Stanford had the better team, but when you win the first one, and you hang on the way we did, you can taste it, you can smell Omaha. And we got so freaking close, it makes it even tougher. But at the same time it makes you even hungrier to get back there and bang down that door."

The Huskies, who led all of Division I with 162 doubles, stroked 10 extra-base hits to open a 13-4 lead in Game 1, but Stanford hit eight homers and nearly came all the way back and that momentum carried over. In Game 2 they knocked out UConn's top starter, Austin Peterson, in the second inning and he lost his cool over the ball-strike calls, getting ejected. He would have been suspended had UConn advanced for the first three games of the CWS.

"Austin Peterson carried us all year," Penders said. "The most consistent pitcher I've ever coached. He got a couple of close calls called balls that he thought were strikes and he usually is able to tame that beast and use it productively. For whatever reason this time it boiled over. It makes him great but it also can get in his way. He was disappointed in himself."

Peterson has another year of



UConn coach Jim Penders, middle, talks to pitcher Devin Kirby, left, and Matt Donlan during the Super Regional at Stanford. The Huskies' historic season ended there on Monday. JOHN HEFTI/AP

eligibility but Penders expects he will be drafted by MLB and will sign, the same for No. 2 starter Pat Gallagher and possibly first baseman Ben Huber. Donlan, Erik Stock, Casey Dana and Zach Bushling are among those out of eligibility. As Penders spoke, pitching coach Josh MacDonald, his transfer portal point-person, was nearby working the phone.

Young players who should be back include Korey Morton, T.C. Simmons, Bryan Padilla, David Smith and several pitchers.

Reggie Crawford, the two-way über talent who missed this season after elbow surgery, is expected to be a first-round draft pick, bringing more national attention to the program.

Penders' enduring memories of 2022 will include Peterson taking the ball as a reliever two days after starting at Maryland, to help UConn win the deciding game there; Christian Fedko fill the role of team captain admirably even though he had lost his playing time; bringing his father, Jim Penders Sr., to celebrate at College Park, Md., the stadium where he had been nearly killed by a pitched ball in 1963.

"The dogpiles, just kind of standing back and watching them enjoy each other, that's pretty cool," Penders said. "The culture is strong, that's something we're proud of. Those relationships are pretty incredible,

that's the stuff that gets me up in the morning and makes me realize I have the best job in the world."

Along the way to the super regional, the Huskies began to gather more and more fans on social media and in Connecticut. Many were out at Stanford's "Sunken Diamond." It reminded Penders of UConn's post-season run in 1990 when he was a teenager and a regional was held a little closer to home in Waterbury.

"I mentioned that in the huddle, too," Penders said. "This team scratched the surface, opened up the ground to let those seeds grow. I was hearing from people who'd had zero interest in UConn baseball, neighbors, people who didn't know whether the ball is blown up or stuffed, who were captivated by our season and getting to know the team."

So the opportunity for UConn baseball to become the next big thing at home; the team from the Northeast to break into the sport's southern- and western-dominated elite group, is in the offing. But there is one more game to win, one more step to take, one more place to go.

"We're going to get to Omaha," Penders said. "I don't know how, but I know that we're going to do it. It's really hard to get there, but I know when we do it's going to be so awesome."

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NBA FINALS COMMENTARY

Celtics no longer look like they have any magic left in the tank

By Karen Guregian
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Their backstory is quite familiar, and has already been trotted out on quite a few occasions.

We all know the Celtics have overcome quite a bit to get to this point in the NBA Finals.

They fought back against the defending champion Milwaukee Bucks, taking the final two games after going down 3-2 in that Conference semifinal series in order to advance.

They won a Game 7 in Miami against the Heat after dropping a possible clinching Game 6 at home in the Conference finals to once again forge ahead.

And before they even reached the playoffs, the Celtics completely turned their season around after a miserable, mostly unwatchable start.

So they're no strangers to being able to dig deep, and change the narrative. They've shown incredible resilience throughout the season and playoffs. They've been able to muster up whatever it takes to collectively get over whatever hurdle lies in front of them.

It's been their calling card.

But now, they're back in do-or-die land against

the Golden State Warriors, after dropping Game 5 Monday night, 104-94, to fall behind 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

Do they have another magical burst in them starting with Game 6 in Boston Thursday night? Can they climb one more mountain and come out on top on the other side?

It's certainly not impossible, but watching them lose back-to-back games for the first time in the playoffs, and seeing how they lost, another miracle just doesn't seem likely.

Based on their uneven performance in the latest pivotal game, their inability to shed bad habits, and their lack of urgency at different points, this might be one obstacle they can't overcome, especially against a Warriors team that's consistently played better in the important moments of the series.

The biggest problem is it's hard to tell which Celtics team is going to show up one quarter to the next, much less one game to the next.

Their inconsistency has been maddening. They just haven't been able to turn that faucet off.

In this series in particular, the self-inflicted wounds and careless play have been deadly.

As once again in Game 5, they were turnover machines. They added 18 more in Game 5, with 13 coming from Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Marcus Smart combined, as the Celtics just continue to be the gift that keeps giving.

Perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that they're 0-7 in games where they turn the ball over 16 or more times.

But that wasn't the only area that bit them in the rear.

They missed 10 free throws. That's right, 10!

It was suggested fatigue might be a factor with Tatum and Brown both worn down by playing a ton of minutes, not to mention carrying the weight of expectations.

Let's just say if they want to be champions, none of that should come into play.

Fatigue or not, they can't continue to have the offense sputter and resort back to hero ball for stretches, while also driving into traffic and losing the ball over and over.

They can't disappear in the first and fourth quarters, which happened Monday night. They need to show they want it more every quarter, not just in spurts.

Work needed on hoops IQ

Jayson Tatum has always aspired to greatness, and he's certainly trending with the legends in one recent sense, though it's undoubtedly not something he ever desired.

The forward's four-turnover performance in the Celtics' Game 5 loss to Golden State gave him 95 for the entire 2022 playoffs, the most by a single player in a single postseason in NBA history.

He edged one club ahead of LeBron James (94, 2018) to set the record, and make no mistake about the greatness on this list.

Tatum, Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown combined for 13 of the Celtics' 18 turnovers, which Golden State parlayed into 22 points.

A solution? The task seems fairly simple to Tatum, heading into Game 6. "We got to be better. We're hard to beat when we don't turn the ball over," he said. "Clearly, we're easy to beat when we do turn the ball over."

— Boston Herald

the league was intriguing to us."

Up next: the Atlanta Dream

Several hours after that signing was revealed on Wednesday, the Sun will take on Atlanta at 7 p.m. The game can be streamed on NESN+ or WNBA League Pass.

The Dream, off to an impressive 7-6 start in their first season under new head coach Tanisha Wright, are led by rising star Rhyne Howard, averaging 16.5 points, 4.0 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.3 steals per game after being selected first overall in this year's draft.

"Terrific offensive player, can really score the basketball at different levels," Miller said. "She's a challenge. So you got to disrupt her. How does that happen? The biggest way is you got to throw multiple defenders at her, you gotta throw multiple different looks at her and try to make her shots as difficult as possible. But she's having an outstanding, outstanding rookie season."

Lila Bromberg can be reached at lbromberg@courant.com and [@LilaBBBromberg](https://twitter.com/LilaBBBromberg) on Twitter.

WNBA

Griner's Russia detention extended for a third time

Associated Press

MOSCOW — WNBA star Brittney Griner will remain in Russian custody through at least July 2, Russian state-run news agency Tass reported Tuesday.

The 31-year-old American basketball player has been held in Russia since February when she was detained at a Moscow airport after authorities there claimed she was carrying vape cartridges containing cannabis oil. The U.S. Department of State last month reclassified her as wrongfully detained.

The Khimki district court of the Moscow region extended Griner's detention for a third time, according to

the Tass report, which also cited a top Russian diplomat as saying that Moscow will not consider including Griner in a detainee swap "until a court investigation into her case is completed."

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, according to Tass, was responding to US media reports that the Biden administration had offered to exchange convicted arms trader Viktor Bout for Griner. Ryabkov gave no timeline for the proceedings in the player's case.

Griner's supporters continue to advocate for her release, with some raising concerns that Moscow might use her as a bargaining chip amid tensions over the war in Ukraine.

NHL

Rangers hope to build on deep playoff run for future success

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two days after being eliminated in the Eastern Conference Final, the New York Rangers still haven't gotten over their loss.

"You go on a great run like that, so many people reach out to tell you how proud they are of you, of your group, but right now it stings," forward Chris Kreider said Monday. "It's hard to be proud a couple of days after you get bounced like that."

Linemate Mika Zibanejad agreed, adding: "Hard time thinking about it without getting emotional again and talking about it. It's going to take whatever time to kind of get over this, be able to use this as a motivation going into next year and this summer, but I haven't really dealt with it completely yet."

After a season in which they had a marked turnaround under new coach Gerard Gallant — finishing with 52 wins — the Rangers had an even more remarkable playoff run, winning five elimination games in the first two rounds to reach the conference final. They won the first two games against Tampa Bay and led 2-0 midway through Game 3.

That's when their offense stalled. After outscoring the Lightning 11-4 up to that point, the Rangers were outscored 12-3 the rest of the series while losing four straight.

"I think we ran out of gas," Gallant said. "Not to make an excuse, but when you play 20 games in 40 days at playoff hockey, it's pretty tough. I'm proud of our guys."

Kreider believes the Rangers need to only look at the Lightning team they just lost to, sending the two-time

defending champions to the Stanley Cup Final for a third straight year, for inspiration. He referenced when Tampa Bay was swept in the first round of the 2019 playoffs by Columbus and then-Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella said "We've created a monster."

"Obviously, we felt like we could have gone the distance, but that sting is what's going to push us over the edge," Kreider said.

With 26 comeback wins in the regular season and four more in the playoffs, the Rangers embraced the "No Quit In New York" slogan that was on signs, T-shirts and rally towels.

"No Quit In New York" doesn't mean we will never lose, but the one thing that we didn't do was we did not quit," Zibanejad said. " Didn't matter the situation, we knew we were always going to either bounce back or keep fighting. And I think that's one of the biggest reasons we got so far."

There were plenty of bright spots throughout the season, including Kreider's 52 goals in the regular season and 10 in the playoffs. Artemi Panarin had 96 points (22 goals, 74 assists) during the season and 16 in the postseason, and Zibanejad followed up on his 81-point season (29 goals and 52 assists) with 10 goals and 14 assists in the playoffs.

Asked if he viewed the season as a success, Gallant said, "100%," and he was optimistic about the future.

"We got young kids that are getting older," the coach said. "We got a nice window here coming up if everybody keeps developing and playing well. I don't think we have to do a whole lot much different."

SCOREBOARD

NBA PLAYOFFS

FINALS SCHEDULE

(best-of-7; x-if necessary)
#3 Golden State, #2 Boston 2
G1: June 2: Boston 120-108.
G2: June 5: Golden State 107-88.
G3: June 8: at Boston 116-100.
G4: June 10: Golden State 107-97.
G5: June 13: Golden State 104-94.
G6: Thursday: at Boston, 9 p.m.
x-G7: June 19: vs. Golden State, 8 p.m.

LATE MONDAY/GAME 5: GOLDEN STATE 104, BOSTON 94

	FG	FT	Reb	Min	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	PTS
Horford	32-50	3-6	1-2	1-9	1	1	9			
Tatum	44-25	10-20	2-4	0-10	4	3	27			
Williams III	30-14	4-5	2-2	3-8	2	2	10			
Brown	44-03	5-18	10-0	3-9	4	2	18			
Smart	39-42	7-15	3-4	0-3	2	4	20			
White	21-24	0-4	1-2	0-1	3	1	1			
Williams	16-04	1-2	1-1	0-3	1	3	3			
Pritchard	4-41	0-3	0-4	0-1	0	0	0			
Hauser	1-19	0-0	0-4	0-0	1	0	0			
Kornet	1-19	1-1	0-0	1-0	0	3	3			
Morgan	1-19	0-0	0-4	0-0	1	0	0			
Nesmith	1-19	0-1	3-4	1-1	0	0	3			
Stauskas	1-19	0-0	0-4	0-0	0	0	0			
Totals	240-00	31-75	21-31	8-47	18	16	94			
Percentages:	FG:41.3	FT:67.7								
3-Point Goals:	11-32	3-44	(Tatum 5-9, Smart 3-6, Horford 2-3, Kornet 1-1, Nesmith 0-1, Williams 0-1, Pritchard 0-3, White 0-3, Brown 0-5)							
Team Rebounds:	13									
Team Turnovers:	None									
Blocked Shots:	2 (Williams 2)									
Turnovers:	18 (Brown 5, Smart 4, Tatum 4, Horford 2, Williams 2, Pritchard)									
Steals:	2 (Brown, White)									
Technical Fouls:	coach Ime Udoka, 0:00 first									
Smart	9:16									

FG FT Reb

GOLDEN STATE MIN-M-AM-A O-T A PF PTS

Porter Jr. 14-37 1-3 0-0 0-2 0-2 0-0 22

Wiggins 42-32 12-23 2-3 1-3 2-2 2-2 26

Green 34-59 3-6 2-2 1-8 6-6 6-6 8

Curry 37-07 7-22 2-3 0-3 2-4 2-1 16

Thompson 39-37 7-14 2-2 0-3 2-4 2-1 20

Payton II 26-09 6-8 2-2 1-5 0-3 1-5 15

Looney 16-45 1-2 0-0 1-4 3-5 2 5

Poole 14-17 4-8 3-3 0-0 0-1 0 14

Bjelica 4-43 0-0 0-0 0-1 0 0

Iguodala 3-56 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Kuminga 1-19 0-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Lee 1-19 0-1 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Moody 1-19 0-0 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 0

Toscano-Anderson 1-19 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 2 0

Anderson 1-19 0-0 0-0 0-0 0 2 0

Totals 240-00 41-88 13-15 4-39 23 18 104

Percentages: FG:46.6, FT:86.7

3-Point Goals: 9-40, 22.5 (Thompson 5-11, Poole 3-6, Payton II 1-3, Lee 0-1, Green 0-2, Porter Jr. 0-2, Wiggins 0-6, Curry 0-9)

Team Rebounds: 4

Team Turnovers: 1

Blocked Shots: 2 (Porter Jr., Wiggins)

Turnovers: 6 (Green 2, Curry, Looney, Poole, Thompson)

Steals: 9 (Payton II 3, Thompson 2, Wiggins 2, Curry, Green)

Technical Fouls: None

Boston 16 23 35 20 — 94

Golden State 27 24 29 — 104

A-18,064 (18,064)

WNBA

EAST

W L Pct GB

Connecticut 10 4 .714 —

Chicago 9 4 .692 1/2

Washington 10 6 .625 1

Atlanta 7 6 .538 2/2

New York 5 9 .357 5

Indiana 4 12 .250 7

WEST

W L Pct GB

Las Vegas 11 2 846 —

Seattle 8 5 .615 3

Dallas 6 7 .462 5

Los Angeles 5 8 .385 6

Phoenix 5 9 .357 6 1/2

Minnesota 3 11 .214 8 1/2

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Washington 83, Phoenix 65

Seattle at Minnesota, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Las Vegas at Dallas, 1p.m.

Atlanta at Connecticut, 7p.m.

Phoenix at Indiana, 7p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Washington at New York, 7p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS

No games scheduled.

USFL

All games in Birmingham, Ala.

NORTH

W L T PCT PF PA

x-New Jersey 8 1 0 .889 206 159

x-Philadelphia 6 3 0 .667 239 217

Michigan 1 8 0 .111 178 215

Pittsburgh 1 8 0 .111 126 210

SOUTH

W L T PCT PF PA

x-Birmingham 8 1 0 .889 213 151

x-New Orleans 6 3 0 .667 193 144

Tampa Bay 4 5 0 .444 144 174

Houston 2 7 0 .222 176 205

x-clinched playoff spot

WEEK 9

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

New Orleans 17, Tampa Bay 6

Philadelphia 17, Pittsburgh 16

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

New Jersey 25, Michigan 23

Houston 17, Birmingham 15

WEEK 10

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia vs. New Jersey, noon

Birmingham vs. Tampa Bay, 4p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Michigan vs. Pittsburgh, noon

New Orleans vs. Houston, 4p.m.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Tom Benson HOF Stadium, Canton, Ohio

No: New Jersey vs. Philadelphia, 3 p.m.

So: Birmingham vs. New Orleans, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

USFL Championship

Tom Benson HOF Stadium, Canton, Ohio

North champ vs. South champ, 7:30 p.m.

ODDS TO WIN SERIES

Golden State -140 Boston +120

STANLEY CUP FINALS WEDNESDAY

FAVORITE LINE UNDERDOG LINE

at Philadelphia -135 Miami +115

at Arizona -116 Cincinnati -102

Atlanta -155 at Washington +135

Milwaukee -120 at NY Mets +100

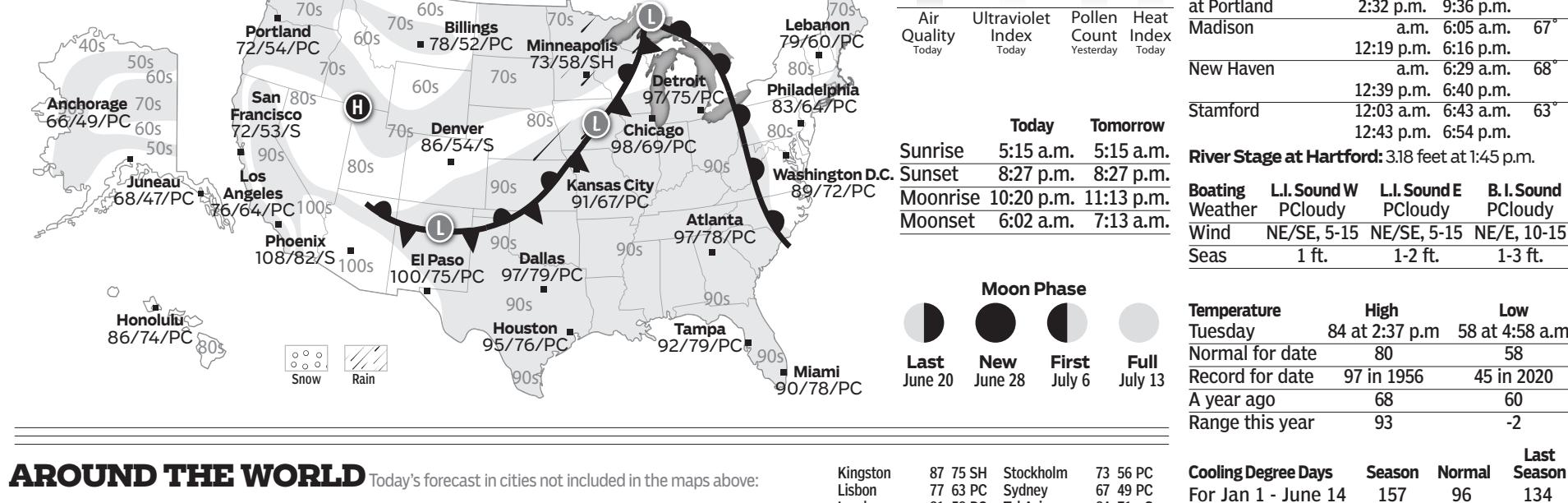
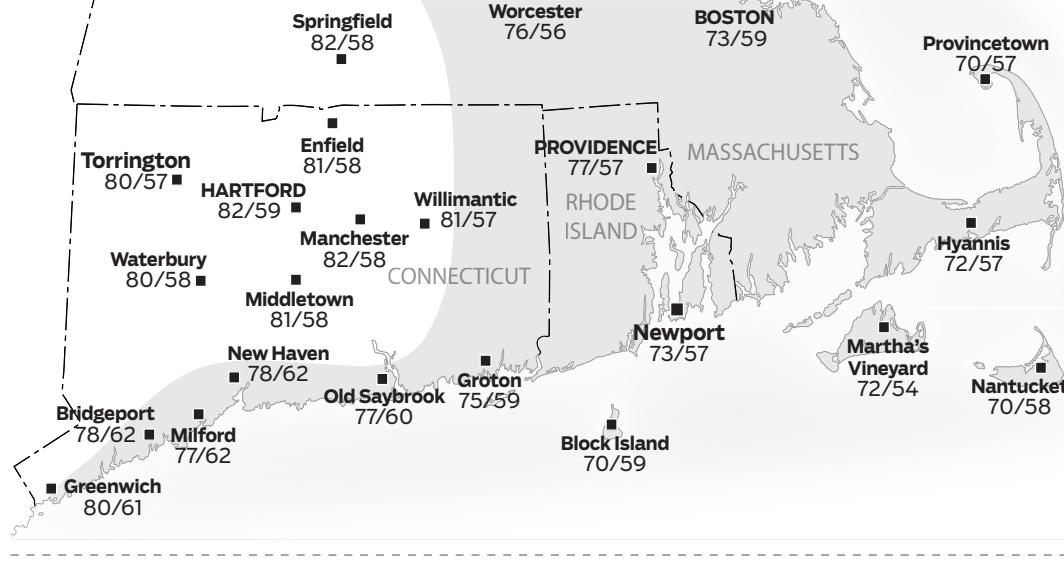
at St. Louis -167 Pittsburgh +148

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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	CONNECTICUT WEATHER
SUNRISE 6:00 NOON 82° SUNSET 7:59 Cloudy, warm. Northeast wind around 5 mph.	SUNRISE 6:00 NOON 78° SUNSET 6:59 Considerable cloudiness, not as warm.	SUNRISE 6:00 NOON 89° SUNSET 6:59 Clouds to start, becoming mostly sunny, very warm.	SUNRISE 6:00 NOON 75° SUNSET 7:59 Sunshine and some fair weather clouds.	SUNRISE 6:00 NOON 75° SUNSET 7:59 Sunny and pleasant.	For the latest weather news throughout your day. courant.com/weather

YOURCAST



AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND	Baltimore	86/68/PC	Nashville	97/75/PC	San Juan	88/78/SH	Budapest	80/61/S	High
Bangor	79/51/S		Bismarck	70/53/PC	New Orleans	93/78/PC	Tucson	105/73/S	Good
Burlington	81/64/PC		Boise	74/55/S	New York	78/64/PC	Amsterdam	75/55/S	42
Caribou	80/53/S		Buffalo	85/73/PC	Okla. City	94/76/PC	Orlando	75/55/S	7
Concord	79/55/PC		Charleston	95/73/PC	Omaha	75/56/SH	Amsterdam	75/55/S	Moderate
Montpelier	77/56/PC		Charleston	95/73/PC	Orlando	96/76/PC	Athens	87/70/PC	Grass
Mt. Wash.	50/43/PC		Cincinnati	96/74/PC	Orlando	96/77/PC	Bangkok	91/81/SH	83°
Portland	77/55/S		Cleveland	96/77/PC	Pittsburgh	90/74/PC	Barbados	83/76/SH	Air Quality
Woods Hole	73/55/S		Indianapolis	96/74/S	Raleigh	89/67/PC	Edinburgh	69/54/PC	Ultraviolet Index
NATION	KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T-tstorms		Jacksonville	95/75/PC	St. Louis	100/77	Beijing	89/69/PC	Pollen Count
Albany	81/63/PC		Las Vegas	101/78/S	Salt Lake City	71/52/S	Beirut	80/72/S	Heat Index
Albuquerque	96/68/S		Miami Beach	88/80/PC	San Antonio	95/76/PC	Berlin	79/57/PC	Today
Atlantic City	79/61/S		Milwaukee	93/65/PC	St. Louis	100/77	Jerusalem	79/62/S	Tomorrow

OUTLOOK

High pressure will bring sunshine and some fair-weather clouds on Wednesday with high temperatures in the 70s and the lower 80s. Humidity levels will be comfortable with dew points in the low to mid-50s. A warm front will cause considerable cloudiness on Thursday. It had appeared in prior days that some showers would occur, but the latest indications are for it to remain dry. Friday will become mostly sunny and very warm, then Canadian high pressure will build in this weekend with fair skies, low humidity levels and seasonable to slightly below normal temperatures.

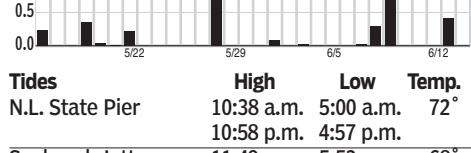
-Gary Lesser

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.15
Month to date	1.93 2.10
Total this year	19.51 19.99

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	10:38 a.m.	5:00 a.m.	72°
	10:58 p.m.	4:57 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	11:49 a.m.	5:53 a.m.	68°
	11:58 p.m.	5:50 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	1:58 a.m.	9:39 a.m.	
	2:32 p.m.	9:36 p.m.	
Madison	a.m.	6:05 a.m.	67°
	12:19 p.m.	6:16 p.m.	
New Haven	a.m.	6:29 a.m.	68°
	12:39 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	
Stamford	12:03 a.m.	6:43 a.m.	63°
	12:43 p.m.	6:54 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 3.18 feet at 1:45 p.m.

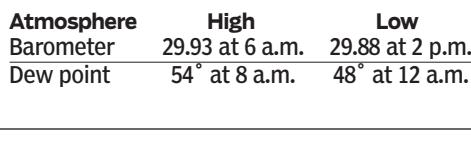
Boating	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Weather	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	NE/SE, 5-15	NE/SE, 5-15	NE/E, 10-15

Seas 1 ft. 1-2 ft. 1-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	84 at 2:37 p.m.	58 at 4:58 a.m.
Normal for date	80	58
Record for date	97 in 1956	45 in 2020
A year ago	68	60
Range this year	93	-2

Cooling Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For Jan 1 - June 14	157	96	134

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	29.93 at 6 a.m.	29.88 at 2 p.m.
Dew point	54° at 8 a.m.	48° at 12 a.m.

MONDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

HAMMER THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

Top 10 Individuals: 1. Gary Moor Jr., Hillhouse, 201-7; 2. Alex Krause, Coventry, 196-0; 3. Nick Canora, East Windsor, 175-1; 4. Christopher Bon Tempo, New Milford, 153-9; 5. Andre Prince, Windsor, 157-11; 6. Dylan Sheehan, Old Lyme, 147-2; 7. Brody Shouten, Coventry, 148-2; 8. Giannocarlos Jimenez, Middletown, 149-0; 9. Chakour Biao, Hillhouse, 143-10; 10. James Chafouleas, E.O. Smith, 137-3.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

HAMMER THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

Top 10 Individuals: 1. Olivia O'Connor, Hillhouse, 143-3; 2. Layla Spann-McDonald, Glastonbury, 136-9; 3. Lauren Plummer, Windsor, 114-10; 4. Marina Perry